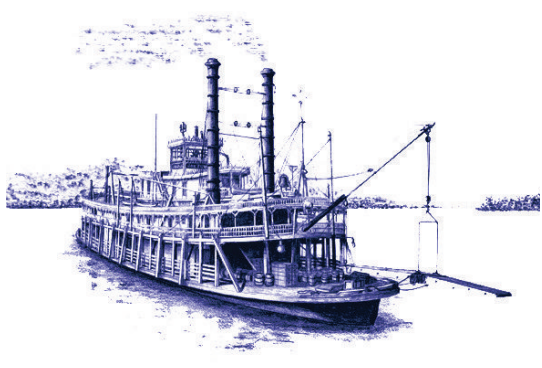




INSIDE

SWITZERLAND
COUNTY AND
SOUTHWESTERN BOYS
SOCCER PLAY TO 1-1
DRAW. SPORTS PAGE
B1

THE MADISON COURIER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025

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Riverfront district reviewed by subcommittee

Amendments
reviewed ahead of
next council meeting

BY BOB DEMAREE

Building setbacks, height and conditional uses were the main focus of a special subcommittee that met Tuesday to review amendments to a proposed Riverfront Development zoning ordinance ahead of a second

reading Tuesday by Madison City Council.

The subcommittee included Mayor Bob Courtney, three Council members — ordinance co-sponsor Lucy Dattilo and amendment sponsors Joshua Schafer and Patrick Thevenow — Deputy Mayor Tony Steinhardt III and City Attorney Joe Jenner, along with virtual attendance by the city's Director of Planning Nicole Schell and Amy Williams, principal/partner with Taylor Siefker Williams Design Group

who is working with the city in updating its Unified Development Ordinance (UDO).

The ordinance, which received a first reading last month at a hearing that included strong opposition by members of the public, seeks to rezone a three block section of the city's riverfront for potential development.

"This small portion of the riverfront must be rezoned in order to reverse its declining condition and bring enhancements to the broader riverfront," Courtney said

after the meeting. "We have been incorporating public input ever since we introduced this plan in early May and I'm committed to thoughtful development that contributes to both our riverfront and historic district. Our commitment to eliminating blight is important to our city and especially to our riverfront."

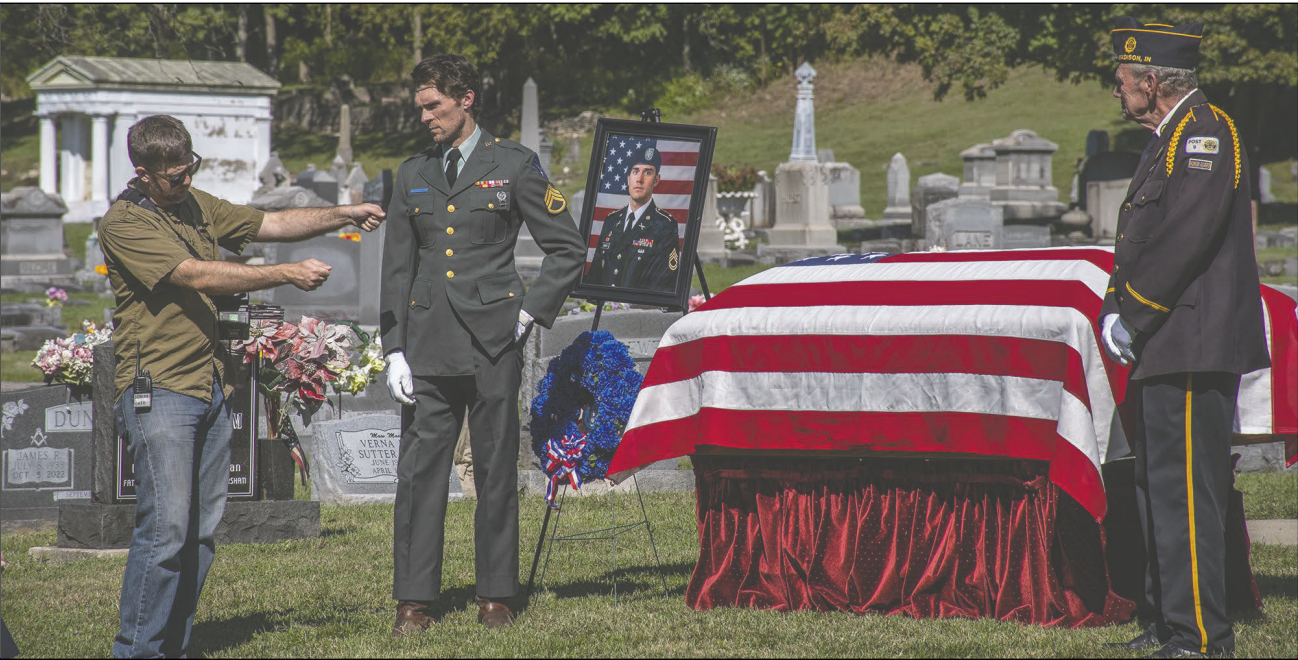
Based on Tuesday's committee discussions, where there had previously been zero setbacks, the ordinance would be updated to include a 5-foot minimum setback

to any property line, 15 feet to any property line adjacent, and 10-feet to any property line adjacent to any other street.

Dattilo said that with zero setbacks for buildings throughout Madison's historic district, she "originally was OK with that because for continuity sake it does reflect what downtown looks like. But I also like the idea of the amendment because you're talking about the riverfront" and how that

SEE DISTRICT/PAGE A7

Camera on 'Anodynus'



Bob Demaree

Luke Fisher (far left), director/co-writer of 'Anodynus,' gives directions to lead actor Sam Dunning, who plays Huff, the veteran who leaves the big city looking for answers and attends a funeral in a small river town. Far right is Michael Hunt, former commander of Major Samuel Woodfill Post No. 9 American Legion.



Bob Demaree

'Anodynus' director/co-writer Luke Fisher (left), rehearses a scene with Audrey Harden, who is portraying Sandra, and Sam Dunning, who is cast as Huff, in the alley next to Gallery 115 in downtown Madison.



Bob Demaree

Luke Fisher (left), director and co-writer of 'Anodynus,' talks with actor Mike Spitz during filming Saturday at Springdale Cemetery. Spitz plays John, the father of a soldier named Issac, whose funeral was taking place at the cemetery.

Count day shows enrollment up at MCS

BY BOB DEMAREE

Enrollment increased by an anticipated 70 at Madison Consolidated Schools on the Indiana Department of Education's Oct. 1 student count day.

"It is significant," said MCS Superintendent Dr. Teresa Brown, making the announcement at the end of Wednesday's Madison School Board meeting.

The ADM (average daily membership) count won't be official for another week because it still needs to be reviewed by the Indiana Department of Education

"Due to that cost of enrollment and due to some financial cost savings we've been implementing over the

last year, we are going to be able to provide our staff with a pretty generous raise that we will talk more about" when it's closer to ratification of the next teacher's contract with Madison Teacher Association, Brown said.

Negotiations are currently underway with MTA, which Brown commended for "being great partners in the process. It's going smoothly because they are just so wonderful to work with. I greatly appreciate the leadership and our negotiations team. I think the rest of our employees are going to happy, too, when they hear what's coming for them."

In other business, the board:

SEE COUNT/PAGE A6

Slygh assigned expanded duties leading CTE at MCS

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Oversight of Madison School's Career and Technical Education (CTE) program is now part of the expanded duties for Lori Slygh, who was promoted to Director of Programs at Wednesday's school board meeting.

CTE will be added to Slygh's existing responsibilities in the areas of student services/counseling, work-based learning coordination, pathway development, Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI), community partnership development, and college & career readiness alignment.

"With the changes in graduation requirements and pathways, Lori's experience as a school counselor with the academic planning, familiarity with state requirements, and scheduling aspect makes her a great fit for this work," said MCS Superintendent Dr. Teresa Brown. "Lori has worked closely with our school counselors at all levels and has vertically integrated and aligned their work to focus on aca-

ademic, career readiness, and overall health and wellness so

each student has a vast array of opportunities, as well as resources to manage their growing responsibilities and coursework as they enter high school and select their graduation pathway."

"The Class of 2029 will be the first to graduate under the new diploma requirements, so we have a couple of years to fine-tune the things we need to align with new requirements while continuing to provide the best possible education," said Slygh. "We are in a very good position, and so very fortunate to have several thriving pathways already established. With a bit of work and alignment, we have several additional opportunities to engage additional partnerships and create unique experiences to align with state requirements. Our goal is to provide an excellent hands-on experience in dynamic learning environments, where students

SEE SLYGH/PAGE A6



Lori Slygh

CHARLIE'S BEAT

Baum a balm for turbulent times

Russ Baum will be performing his unique style of SkAmericana music at Red Bicycle Hall on Saturday, Oct. 4, with a 3-piece acoustic band. As the name suggests, it's a fusion of Ska music and Americana. And if you are an old Beatles fan and the term "Ska" rings a bell, you are correct, it was an early influence on the iconic British band.

"Ska has sort of a reggae tone," explains Russ, "with an emphasis on the upstroke. It's been around since



CHARLIE ROHLFING

"Folk and punk scenes have

the 1950s when it came out of Jamaica, but right now it's enjoying what they call the 5th Wave of popularity. Ska is also mixed up with punk sounds and themes, but with a bit more of an almost polka energy, more of an energetic format.

embraced Ska over the years because those are protest genres, you might say, commenting on things that need changing and improving in society. It's a way to tell the truth about things, but still leave listeners with an uplifting feeling. We sing about the real problems in the world, but hopefully leave you with a feeling of relief instead of despair. That's the goal, anyway!"

SEE BAUM/PAGE A6

DEATHS, A2-3

Christine Carter
Virgil Cornett
Mark Craig
Clara Fole

Mary Holt
Nellie Jackson
James Leatherbury
Ronald Morton

Anthony Schryer
John Thompson
Terry Wissel



Follow our socials and see what we have to offer your student!



@MCS_Indiana
@growingmindsfarmstop
@MadisonAthletics / @cubsathletics
@MadisonTheatre_IN



Be sure to search for your favorite school, extracurricular club, or sports team...we are everywhere!

Former state trooper True named MCS security director

BY BOB DEMAREE

Mark True was named Safety and Security Director for Madison Consolidated Schools (MCS) at Wednesday's meeting of Madison School Board.

True retired from the state police in July, and was hired as MCS Lead School Resource Officer before being promoted this week as the Safety and Security Director.

"Mark comes to us after 25



Mark True

years with the Indiana State Police," said board president John Wallace, who is also a former Madison Police Chief and former Jefferson County Sheriff. "He had a very stellar career with Indiana State Police. We're very fortunate to have Mark on board, and very excited. We know he'll do a great job in keeping our students and staff safe."

"I was born and raised in Madison, my children have gone

to school here, and the safety of our schools is a priority to me," said True. "To work with such a great team of officers, sharing a passion for safety, a level of professionalism, and a commitment to excellence, we will continue the great work started years ago."

A 1996 graduate of Madison Consolidated High School, True was a three-sport athlete, playing baseball, basketball and football for Cubs. He's been married since 2001 to Kami Holt, a 1997 MCHS graduate.

True spent nearly 20 years

in Special Operations as a SWAT Trooper operating high-risk tactical operations to resolve critical incidents. He has extensive experience supporting department personnel and working effectively with outside agencies.

Over his career, True has compiled a vast training resumé including explosives handling, breaching, hostage rescue techniques, rural domestic preparedness, hazardous materials, criminal and drug interdiction and incident management and command

systems.

True said he will be making an assessment of school safety throughout the school district. "I want to make sure our students and our staff and facilities are safe," particularly with recent violent events that have occurred in various places in the United States such as shootings at churches and schools.

"We want to put everything in place to prevent those things, and be proactive in preventing them," he said.

"We are thrilled to have someone of Mark's experience

level and passion for safety leading our district safety initiative," said MCS Superintendent Dr. Teresa Brown. "From the time he joined our team, he has brought a great perspective to our already sound practices, but improvement and efficiency are always the goal."

True assumes a role that had been held by Jacob McVey, who resigned the position in July. Cody Teltow, who moved into the director position following McVey's departure, has transitioned to School Resource Officer.

POLICE REPORTS

JEFFERSON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER
Lodgings
Sept. 29, 2025

Beth Ann Massie, 44, Madison, for Possession of a Schedule I, II, IV or V Drug, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond \$500 cash.

Charles Frank Williams 44, Seymour, Indiana, for Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony; Possession of Marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor; and Possession of Paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond \$1,000 cash.

Sept. 30, 2025

Destiny Laquanville Bailey, 31, Shelbyville, Kentucky, for Resisting Law Enforcement and Criminal Trespass, both Class A misdemeanors. No bond.

Anthony Gene Boyer Sr., 48, Hanover, for Possession of Methamphetamine and Resisting Law Enforcement, both Level 6 felonies; Resisting Law Enforcement-2 Counts, both Class A misdemeanors. No bond.

Justin Joe Deckard, 30, Madison, on a Jefferson County warrant for failure to appear (driving while suspended). No bond.

Crystal Octavia Hodge, 37, New Albany, Indiana, to serve 4 days jail, concurrent, on a court-ordered sentencing. No bond.

Nathanael Lee/Addison Mann, 45, Madison, to hold on a warrant for Lawrence County, Indiana. No bond.

William Joseph Melton Sr., 64, Madison, on a Circuit Court warrant for failure to appear. No bond.

Brian Lee Scales, 37, Muncie, Indiana, on a Jefferson County arrest warrant (burglary of a dwelling). Bond \$5,000 cash.

Oct. 1, 2025

Elizabeth Nicole Miller, 30, Hanover, to serve 8 days jail, consec-

utive, on a court-ordered sentencing. No bond.

Oct. 2, 2025

Justin T. McCoy, for Public Intoxication Alcohol/Drugs, a Class B misdemeanor; and Public Nudity, a Class C misdemeanor. Released on own recognizance and \$1000 bond.

JEFFERSON COUNTY CIRCUIT & SUPERIOR COURT
Sentencings
Sept. 29, 2025

Crystal Octavia Hodge, 37, New Albany, Indiana, for Operating While Intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 365 days jail, all suspended except for 5 actual days to be served with 360 days suspended to supervised probation plus \$489.50 in fees and court costs and driver's license suspended for 120 days with specialized driving privileges.

Sept. 30, 2025

Kerrie Lynn Hoyt, 32, Madison, to an amended charge of Neglect of a Dependent Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury, a Level 3 felony. Sentenced to 10 years at Indiana Department of Correction, fully executed, with credit for 216 days jail served plus \$289 in fees and court costs.

Elizabeth Miller, 30, Hanover, to an amended charge of Operating While Intoxicated, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 540 days at Indiana Department of Correction, all suspended except for 10 actual days with credit for 2 days jail served 8 days remaining to serve and 530 days suspended to supervised probation plus \$789.50 in fees and court costs and loss of driver's license for 455 days.

Wesley Buchanan, 42, Vevay, Indiana, to an amended charge of Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony, entered as a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 365 days jail, all suspended to

supervised probation, plus \$789 in fees and court costs.

Brian Michael Elisha Skirvin, 26, Madison, to an amended charge of Domestic Battery, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 900 days at Indiana Department of Correction, all suspended except for 270 days with credit for 74 days served and 630 days suspended to supervised probation plus \$639 in fees and court costs.

Destiny Elizabeth Lee Baker, 32, Sellersburg, Indiana, for Theft, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 910 days at Indiana Department of Correction, all suspended except for 62 days jail, served, with 848 days suspended to supervised probation plus \$589 in fees and court costs.

Oct. 1, 2025

Fred Wayne Perkins, 56, Madison, to an amended charge of Intimidation, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 910 days at Indiana Department of Correction, with credit for 8 days jail served, 365 days to be served as a direct commitment with Community Corrections and 545 days suspended to supervised probation plus \$389 in fees and court costs.

Ricky J. Craft, 64, Hazard, Kentucky, for Criminal Trespass, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 180 days jail, fully executed with credit for 114 days jail served, with sentencing consecutive to 180 days jail, fully executed, for Theft, a Class A misdemeanor, plus \$289 in fees and court costs.

Joshua Allen Morrison, 35, Lexington, Indiana, for Possession of a Device or Substance Used to Interfere With a Test, a Class B misdemeanor. Sentenced to 60 days jail, fully executed, served, with revocation of a total of 500 days

SEE NEWS/PAGE A7

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Editor's Note: Got a birthday or anniversary coming up? Send name, date and number of years (optional) to zelda@madisoncourier.com or call 812-265-3641. Please leave your name and phone number in case we have followup questions.

BIRTHDAYS	
	Oct. 3
Jordan Ray	
	Oct. 4
Larry Childress	
Dave "Tank" Sherman - 74	
Oct. 5	
Ron Bateman	

Todd Boone	
John "Tooter" Booth	
Brent Turner	
	Oct. 6
Ray Denning	
	Oct. 7
Matt Demaree	
	Oct. 9
John Ball	
Tim Hillman	
	ANNIVERSARIES
	Oct. 9
Alex and Kelsi Schmidlapp	

INDIANA
Hoosier Lotto:3-13-18-24-31-32 (10/1).
Estimated Jackpot: \$3.4 million. **Next Drawing:** (10/4)
Cash Five:7-10-12-21-43 (10/1)
Cash 4 Life: 4-19-23-36-44 CB: 4 (10/1)

KENTUCKY
Cash Ball:7-17-30-34 CB: 11 (10/1)
Lucky For Life:1-4-5-16-47 LB: 7 (10/1)
MEGAMILLIONS: 4-8-27-37-63 MB: 14 (9/30) **Next Jackpot:**\$520 million.
Next Drawing (10/3)
POWERBALL: 8-17-22-28-

55 PB: 14, PP 3 (10/1).
Next Estimated Jackpot: \$195 million. **Next Drawing** (10/4)
POWERBALL DOUBLE PLAY:3-29-38-56-65 PB: 7 (10/1). **Next Estimated Jackpot:**Up to \$10 million. **Next Drawing** (10/4)

WEATHER

Sunrise: 7:38 a.m.
Sunset: 7:22 p.m.

Temperature: High 86, Low 56, Mean 71.0, Excess 11.9

Precipitation since last published:0
Precipitation, September 2025: 6.46
Precipitation, October 2025: 0
Precipitation, 2025: 47.83

Barometer 30.12, Rising
River Level at Clifty Creek: 421.62 feet, Falling
Forecast: Saturday: Partly cloudy High 87/Low 55; Sunday: Sunny High 87/Low 60; Monday: Partly cloudy High 84/Low 64; Tuesday: Scattered thunderstorms High 77/Low 59.

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DEATH NOTICES

Christine Carter, 81, of Paris Crossing, IN, died Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025, at Hampton Oaks Health Campus in Scottsburg, IN. Funeral service is at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 4, at Collins Funeral Home in Scottsburg, with burial to follow in the Scottsburg Cemetery there, www.collinsfuneralhome.net.

Mark Alan Craig, 69, of near Quercus Grove, IN, died Monday, Sept. 29, 2025, at St. Elizabeth Hospice in Edgewood, KY. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 4, at Haskell & Morrison Funeral Home in Vevay, IN, with interment to follow in Eastview Cemetery in Patriot, IN, www.haskellandmorrison.com.

Clara Maxine "Susie" Fowler Fole, 93, of Canaan, IN, died Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025, at her home. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover, IN, www.morgan-nay.com.

Ronald Eugene "Ronnie" Morton, 75, of

Pleasant, IN, died Monday, Sept. 29, 2025, at his residence. Funeral services is at 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 3, at Haskell & Morrison Funeral Home in Vevay, IN, with interment to follow in the Pleasant Cemetery in Pleasant, www.haskellandmorrison.com.

Anthony "Tony" J. Schryer, 67, of Canaan, IN, died Monday, Sept. 29, 2025, at Community South Hospital in Indianapolis. A celebration of life will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, at the Holton Community Building in Holton, IN. Arrangements by Neal's Funeral Home in Osgood, IN, www.nealsfuneralhome.net.

Terry D. Wissel, 71, of Rexville, IN, died Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025, at his home. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 3, at St. John Catholic Church in Osgood, IN, with burial in the West Fork Cemetery near Rexville. Arrangements by Stratton-Karsteter Funeral Home in Versailles, IN, www.skfuneralhome.com.

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Marie Fagen Mitchell	6904 SW 35th Way	Gainesville	FL	32608
Frederick Mitchell & Linda Mitchell, Jointly Without Right of Survivorship	1108 Calico Court	Bowling Green	KY	42104
Martha P. Sinquefeld	96 Twin Lake Circle	Umatilla	FL	32784
James L. Sinquefeld	96 Twin Lake Circle	Umatilla	FL	32784
Adane Frith Brockenborough Trust, William Brockenborough Trustee	250 Connecticut St. #4	San Francisco	CA	94107
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Andrew F. Paxton	1876 S Barnes Rd	Palm Springs	CA	92264
Da Paxton, Trustee of the Da Paxton Revocable Living Trust dated March 13, 2024	3962 SW Coyote Avenue	Redmond	OR	97756
Douglas E. Paxton	2495 15th Street	San Francisco	CA	94114
Alain d'Eprenesnil, Trustee U/A 7/20/85 FBO Margery du Val d'Eprenesnil	2929 Broadway	Paducah	KY	42001
Hai Sullivan, Trustee U/A DTD 4/30/99 Alain du Val d'Eprenesnil	2929 Broadway	Paducah	KY	42001
Edwin John Paxton IV Revocable Trust under Agreement DTD 10/5/05	2250 Olivet Church Rd	Paducah	KY	42001
Bruce P. Brockenborough	PO Box 722	Paducah	KY	42002-0722
William E. Brockenborough	250 Connecticut St. #4	San Francisco	CA	94107
Bryan Sinquefeld	2325 Highland Avenue	Falls Church	VA	22046
James T. S. Paxton	201 South 4th Street	Paducah	KY	42003
Michael F. Paxton	201 South 4th Street	Paducah	KY	42003
John D. Paxton	201 South 4th Street	Paducah	KY	42003
Joanna P. Federico	201 South 4th Street	Paducah	KY	42003
Daniel T. Paxton	201 South 4th Street	Paducah	KY	42003
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Lauren Paxton Baumgarten	201 South 4th Street	Paducah	KY	42003
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OBITUARIES

Nellie Jean Ritchie Jackson

Nellie Jean Ritchie Jackson, age 91, of Madison, IN, entered into this life on July 3, 1934, in Jefferson County Indiana. She was the loving daughter of Everett Edgar and Mary Elizabeth Hord Ritchie. She was a lifelong resident of Jefferson County, and graduated from Madison High School in 1952. Nellie was raised in the Smyrna Monroe Presbyterian Church as a child. She was united in marriage on Jan. 3, 1953, to Donald Edward Jackson in Vernon, IN. That happy union of 19 years was blessed with six children, John, Gary, Michael, David, Janet, and Anna. She became Catholic after her marriage and attended the St. Michaels Catholic Church in downtown Madison. Nellie worked early in life at the Brennanman Shade Factory, Conn Organ Company, and the Gateway Supermarket. She retired from OVO where she was the County Director and was in charge of the energy assistance program for 20 plus years. After retirement she worked part-time in the kitchen at OVO for several years. She was a long-time member of the Madison Assembly of God Church and later a member of the River Valley Community Church. Nellie had formerly served as a Deaconess and taught a Sunday school class. She enjoyed singing in the church choir and drama productions at Easter and Christmas time. When she was more independent, she enjoyed going to singles' group activities such as the program JOY (Just Older Youth) group of senior adults gathering monthly. She loved spending time with her family and adored her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great great grandchildren. For



nearly six years in a row, she enjoyed attending Christ Church's Worship and Music Conference every July in Nashville, TN, with a group of people from her church. There she would attend workshop sessions, learn songs from Christ Church Choir's new recordings, choir practice, and sing with their choir of 200 people. She enjoyed playing solitaire and doing crossword puzzles. She loved to watch games shows including Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy. Nellie died on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025, at 7:45 a.m., at the Waters of Clifty Falls in Madison, IN.

Nellie will be missed by her loving sons, John Everett Jackson and his wife Jenny of Madison, IN, Gary Jackson and his wife Pam of Dupont, IN, David Jackson and his wife Theresa of Hanover, IN; her loving daughters, Janet Bird of Madison, Anna Conover and her husband, Lee of Madison; her sister, Alice Kaufman of Indianapolis, IN; her grandchildren, Stephanie, Michelle, Tricia, Carrie, Donnie, Natalie, Adam, Aaron, Nicole, Kristeena, Hayley, Justin, Patrick, Delaney, Brandon; her step grandchildren, Tushawny, Trenton, Catrina, Ross, Katelynn, Jessica, Michael; her great-grandchildren, Jaxon, Trayton, Kailyn, Kaylie, Kaidence, Kendall, Braydon,

Autumn, Summer, Caitlyn, Jackson, Aiyla, Faith, Grace, Able, Noble, Callie, Carter, Ashton, Cailyn, Lillian, Kyler, and Indy; her step great-grandchildren, Ethan, Elijah, Brittany, Megan, Christopher, Emma, Nevaeh, Jordyn, Brooklyn, June, and Emma; her great-great-grandchildren, Oliver, Olivia, Paisleigh, Claire, and Shepherd; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her father, Everett Edgar Ritchie, her mother, Mary Elizabeth Hord Ritchie, her husband of 19 years, Donald E Jackson, her son, Michael Jackson, her brother, William Ritchie, her sisters, Elizabeth Agnes Ritchie, and Sarah Anne Pruitt (her twin), and her grandson, Dallas Everett Alan Lee Jackson.

Funeral services will be conducted on Friday, Oct. 3, 2025, at 11 a.m., by Pastor Chris Hostetler at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison.

Interment will follow in the St. Patrick Cemetery, 305 West State Street in Madison.

Friends was held Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025, from 4-7 p.m., and Friday, Oct. 3, 2025, from 10 a.m. until the time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Smyrna Monroe Presbyterian Church and Cemetery. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

John W. 'Jack' Thompson

John W. "Jack" Thompson, age 82, of Madison, IN, died Monday, Sept. 29, 2025, at his residence in Madison, IN. He was the loving son of William Arthur and Janet M. Brinson Thompson.

Jack will be missed by his wife, Twilia Thompson of Madison, IN; his children, Debbie Thompson, Tammy, Thompson, Crystal Thompson, Jimmy Thomson John Thompson, Jr. all of Columbus, IN, Melissa Kay Bushong and Alex Gomez both of Madison, IN; his step son, John Brim, Jr. and his wife, Arlene of Land O'Lakes, FL, and Matthew Law of Mount Vernon, IL; his sisters, Mary A. "Mousey" Thomp-

son of Madison, IN, Norma Jean Thompson and her partner Briton Hunt of Madison, IN, Carolyn Dean of Madison, IN, Faye Eggers of Madison, IN, Connie Thompson of Madison, IN; his brother, Larry W. Thompson and his wife, Mary of Madison, IN; several grandchildren, several great grandchildren, many nieces, nephews, friends, and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his father, William Arthur Thompson, his mother, Janet M. Brinson Thompson, his brothers, Robert "Bobby Joe" Thompson and Harvey Thompson, his sister, Edna Case, his brothers-in-law, Billy Dean and Robert "Bob"

Eggers, his daughters, Starlene Thompson and Jacklyn Thompson.

Jack chose cremation with no services to be held per his wishes. Interment will be in the Grandview Memorial Gardens, 9306 North U.S. 421 near Madison, IN.

His final wishes are to be remembered by how he lived his life.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Morgan & Nay honored with NFDA 'Best of Best' award

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre has been honored with 2025 “Best of Best” honors from the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) for its AfterCare Events program, the only company in the United States to attain that distinction.

“When a person loses his/her spouse, the former house of two filled with laughter, conversation, support and plans becomes a lonely structure for one,” said Rodney Nay, president of Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre. “Our AfterCare Events program does not dwell on grief, but rather concentrates on socialization and activity involvement whether it be a seasonal luncheon or a day trip outing to a musical, historic site or sporting event.”

“The grief,” he continued, “will still be there when the widow/widower gets home. Just a few hours in a different environment with friendly people and interesting content is most therapeutic for those traveling the bereavement journey.”

The Morgan & Nay AfterCare Events program focuses on helping new widows and widowers gradually and comfortably



Submitted

Members of the Morgan & Nay AfterCare Events Team include (from left): Front row — Rodney Nay, president/owner; Rosalind Harrell, AfterCare Events coordinator; and Phil Wright; Back row — Carol Blasdel, Wanda Horine, Linda Manis.

experience normalcy through social interaction and activities. Spread throughout the year, customized plans range from Christmas and Valentine luncheons, spring and fall outings to a popular bistro, a flower planting seminar in May, a fishing expedition at a local pond, day trips to regional attractions and

complimentary tickets to the annual Morgan & Nay Christmas Show.

The company also maintains conventional grief aids and monthly support meetings, along with the separate, social approach that nurtures human interaction

SEE **MORGAN/PAGE A6**

James 'Jim Bo' Lawrence Leatherbury

James "Jim Bo" Lawrence Leatherbury, 1st, age 77, of Milton, KY, entered this life on Jan. 9, 1948, in Switzerland County, IN. He was the loving son of the late Chester Clay and Mary Catherine Pickett Leatherbury. He entered the United States Army on Dec. 6, 1966, and served during the Vietnam War, earning the Vietnam Service Medal with three Bronze Service Stars, the Combat Infantryman Badge, a Purple Heart, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with V Device, Sharpshooter Rifle M-16, Marksman Rifle M-14, Marksman Pistol, and Expert 81 MM Mortar. He was honorably discharged on Dec. 5, 1968, as a Staff Sergeant. He was united in marriage on Jan. 29, 1971, in Madison, IN, to Nancy E. Robbins. This happy union of 54 years was blessed with daughters, Rachel, Tonya, Mary, and Shannon, and sons, James and Chester. He earned an Associate Degree in drafting from IVY Tech College in 1978. He was a self-employed contractor, owning Leatherbury Glass and Construction from 1974 to 1986. He was raised in the Baptist faith and enjoyed his grandchildren, riding



his motorcycle, operating his backhoe, and their activities, and wintering in Florida. Jim died on Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025, at 5:31 a.m., at his home in Milton, KY.

Jim will be missed by his loving wife of 54 years, Nancy E. Robbins Leatherbury of Milton, KY; his daughters, Rachel Blomberg and her husband James of Louisville, KY, Tonya Glacken of Batesville, IN, Shannon Wolf of Milton, KY; his son, Chester Leatherbury of Milton, KY; his fourteen grandchildren; his 15 great grandchildren; his brothers, Chester Leatherbury and his wife Carolyn of Jonesville, IN, Hugh Leatherbury of Hall, IN; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his father, Chester Clay Leatherbury, his mother, Mary Catherine Pickett Leatherbury, his brothers, Hershel

Leatherbury, Charles Leatherbury, Donnie Leatherbury, Billy Leatherbury, Jeffrey Leatherbury, and George Leatherbury, his sisters, Mary Catherine Leatherbury and Sharon Leatherbury, his son, James Lawrence "ScareCrow" Leatherbury, II, died Sept. 20, 2020, his grandson, Dylan Shane Smith.

Family and friends may gather on Monday, Oct. 6, 2025, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN, with A final salute by the Major Samuel Woodfill Post No. 9 of the American Legion at 1 p.m.

Military honors will be conducted Monday, Oct. 6, 2025, at 1:30 p.m., by Major Samuel Woodfill Post No. 9 of the American Legion at the Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery Chapel, 1415 North Gate Road in Madison, IN.

Interment will follow in the Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery 1415 North Gate Road in Madison, IN.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hosparus or the Wounded Warriors. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Mary Holt



Mary Holt, 97, of Madison, IN, passed away peacefully on Sept. 30, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on Aug. 8, 1928, in Thorntown, IN, to Ben Osborne and Mary Jane Riley Osborne.

Mary graduated from Thorntown Senior High School in 1947. After graduation, she moved to Indianapolis, where she worked for Indiana Bell Telephone Company as a Long-Distance Operator. She later moved to Madison, when her husband, Allen, was employed at Jefferson Proving Ground.

On Aug. 7, 1948, Mary married Allen S. Holt, and together they shared 57 years of marriage until his passing in 2005. Their family included an infant daughter, Angel, who was stillborn at five months, a daughter, Victoria Jane, and a son, Dennis Allen.

Mary and Allen spent four years in El Paso, TX, where Allen worked at White Sands and Mary worked in a local school. They later returned to Madison, where Mary worked at Reliance Electric and Hilltop Animal Hospital.

Mary was one of twelve children and treasured the closeness of her large family. She was also deeply connected to her husband’s family, whom she

loved as her own. Mary was known for her love of sports, her wonderful cooking, and her ability to bring joy and fun to any event she hosted or attended. She adored animals and cared for them with the same kindness she showed to her family and friends. Her happiest times were when her family was all in town visiting, laughing, and making memories together.

She is survived by her daughter, Victoria Kennedy (Michael) of MI; daughter-in-law, Pam Holt Richmer (Dale) of Madison; five grandchildren: Kami True (Mark), Molly Sabol (Josh), Mickey Kennedy (Meghan), Matthew Kennedy (Molly), and Andy Richmer (Crystal); and eight great-grandchildren: Gracie True, Landon True, Izzy True, Sophia Sabol, Suri Sabol, Madelyn Kennedy, Mackenzie

Kennedy, and Jack Richmer. She is also survived by her sister, Margaret Stein; brother-in-law, Phil Holt; and many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Allen (2005); her son, Dennis (2000); her parents; siblings Squire Osborne, Charles Osborne, Arthur Osborne, Frank Osborne, Benny Osborne, Robert Osborne, Luella Phillips, Evagene Holderman, Louise Reidelback, and Della Berger; and sisters-in-laws Ramona Bennett, Maxine Leak, Marie Hisle, and Virginia Miller.

Mary chose cremation with a private family graveside ceremony at a later date at Grandview Memorial Gardens in Madison, IN. Mary will be remembered as a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and friend, whose warmth, laughter, and zest for life touched everyone who knew her.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Community Foundations for Dennis Allen Holt Fund. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Virgil Cornett



Virgil Cornett, 71, of North Vernon, passed away at 11:05 a.m., on Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025, at Hickory Creek of Madison.

Born April 24, 1954, in Whitesburg, KY, he was the son of the late Vinson and Pauline (Banks) Cornett. He married Jackie Rodgers on Sept. 14, 1991, in North Vernon; she survives.

Virgil was a 1972 graduate of Madison High School and worked in sales, design, and delivery, for Goecker Construction in North Vernon, for 30 plus years, retiring in 2020. He enjoyed fishing, watching UK Basketball, and the Cincinnati Bengals.

Surviving with his wife of 34 years, Jackie, are sons, Kevin (Carolina) Cornett of Rancho Cucamonga, CA, Derek (Erin) Green of North Vernon, and Mikey (Becky) Cornett of Milton, KY; daughters, Paula (Brent) McMillan of Sey-

mour, and Kristin (Alex) Getchell of Franklin; sisters, Mildred (Charles) Schultz and Brenda (Jim) Speer, both of Dupont; brother-in-law, Jim (Tammy) Rodgers of Madison; and grandchildren, Brianna Cornett and Caleb Cornett, both of CA; Alexis Goodman of KY, Austin Cornett, Bentley Bennett, and Arbor McMillan, all of Seymour, Keegan Green and Rylee Green, both of North Vernon, Luke Getchell of Franklin, Christopher Cornett, Justin

Cornett, and Corey Cornett, all of Milton, KY, Matthew Lawrence of TN, and Caitlyn Bunton of CA.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Maria Combs Cornett Lewis; son, Christopher Michael Cornett; and brother Randy Cornett.

A funeral service for Virgil will be at 12 p.m. (noon) on Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2025, at the Dove-Sharp & Rudicel Funeral Home and Cremation Service in North Vernon, with the Rev. Mike Shipley officiating.

The visitation for family and friends will be on Monday, Oct. 6, 2025, from 4 until 8 p.m., and one hour prior to the service on Tuesday.

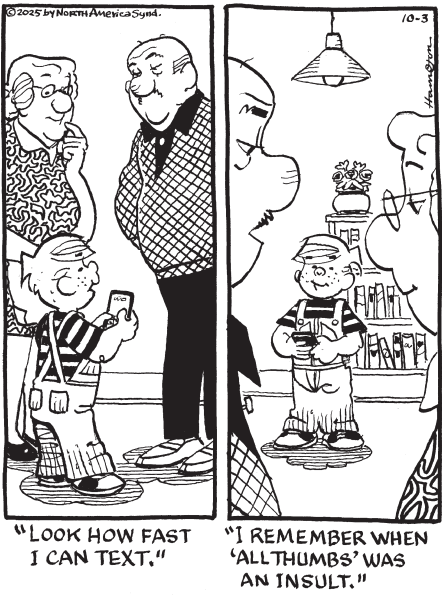
The burial will follow in Dupont Cemetery in Dupont.

Memorials may be made through the funeral home in honor of Virgil to St. Jude Children’s Hospital.

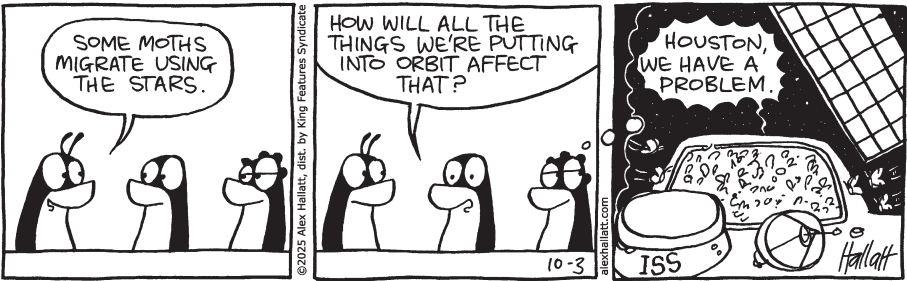
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



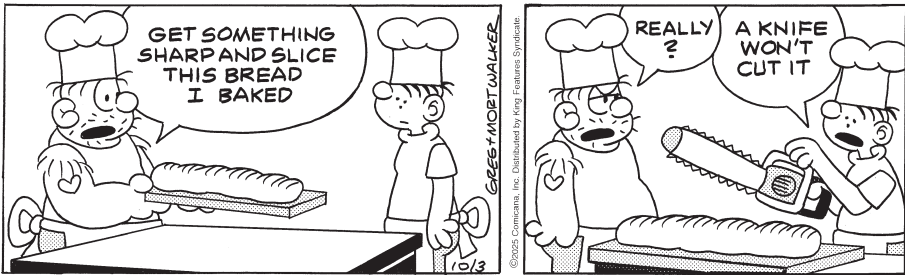
ARCTIC CIRCLE



BIZARRO



BEETLE BAILEY



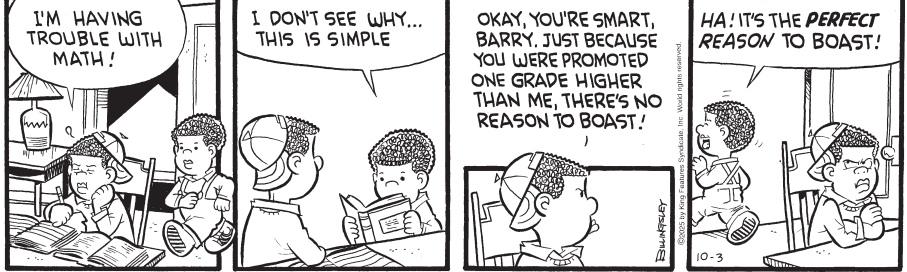
RHYMES WITH ORANGE



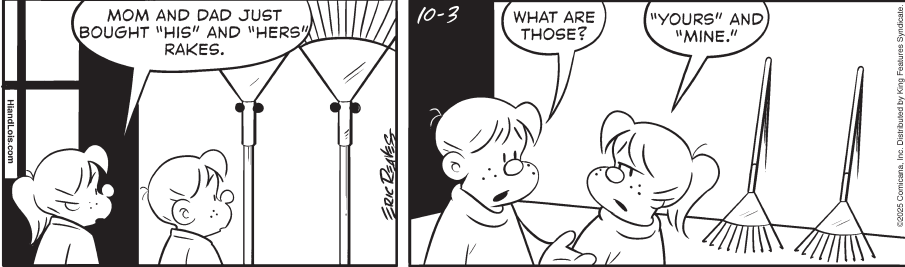
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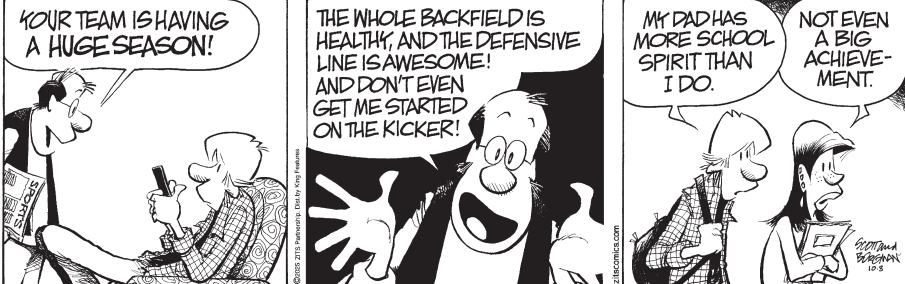
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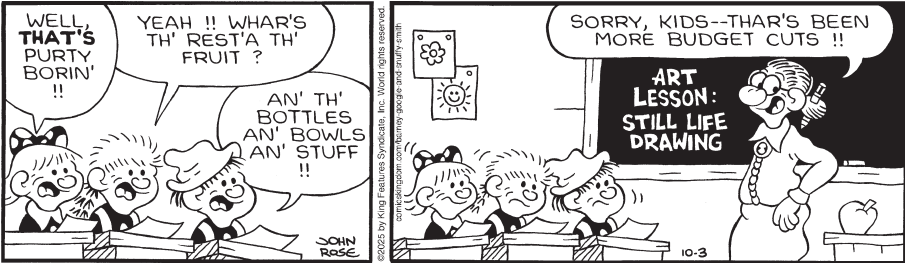
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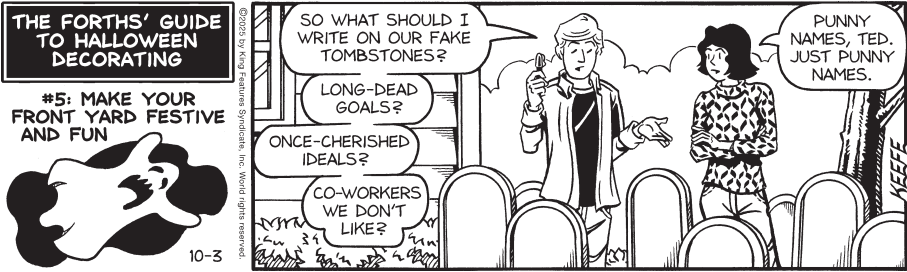
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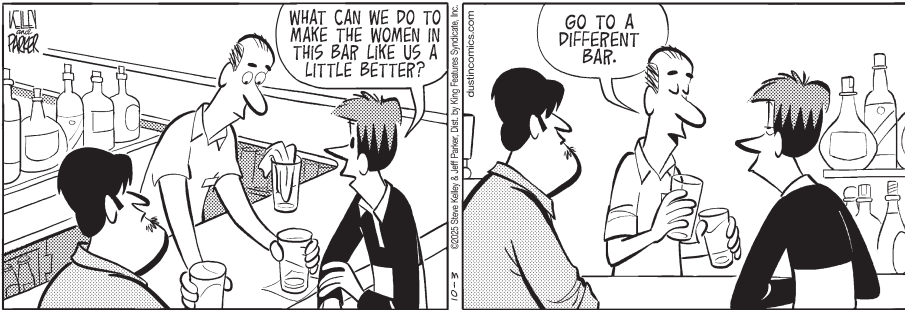
BARNEY GOOGLE AND SNUFFY SMITH



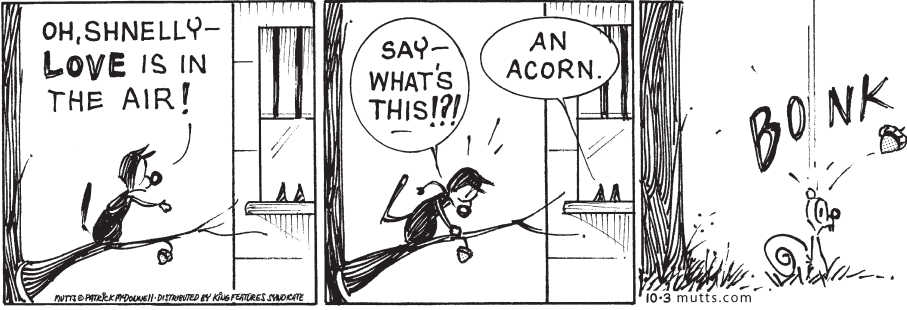
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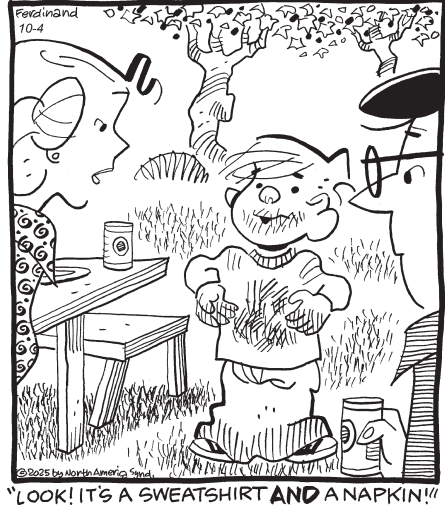


THE FAMILY CIRCUS

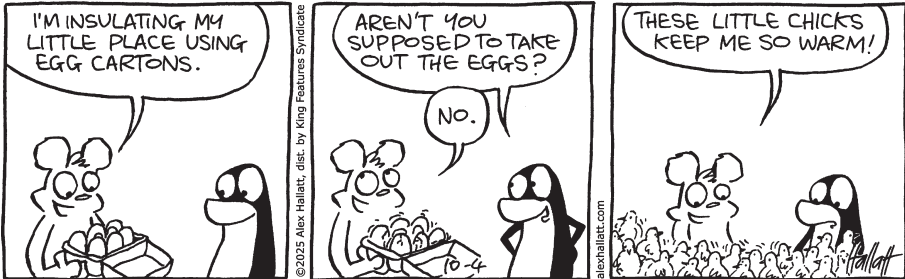
By Bil Keane



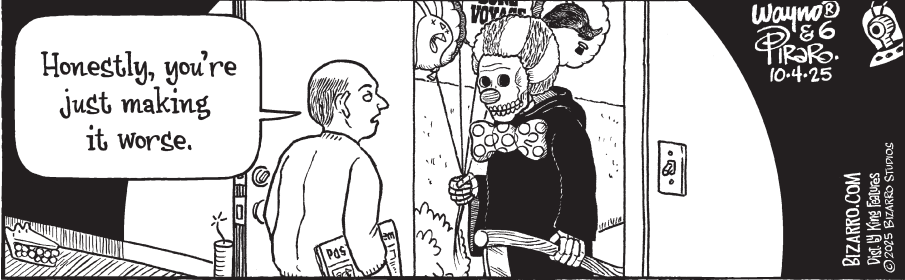
DENNIS THE MENACE



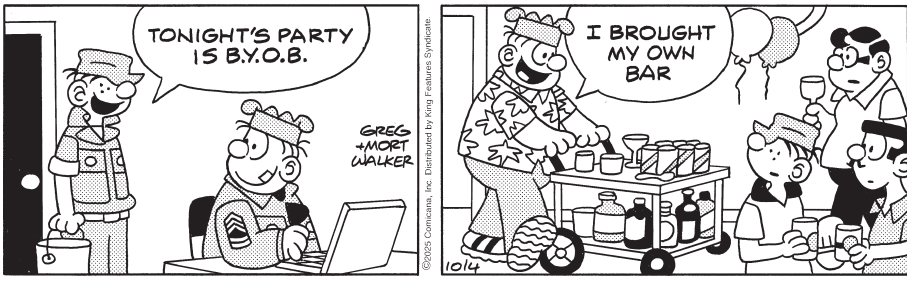
ARCTIC CIRCLE



BIZARRO



BEETLE BAILEY



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



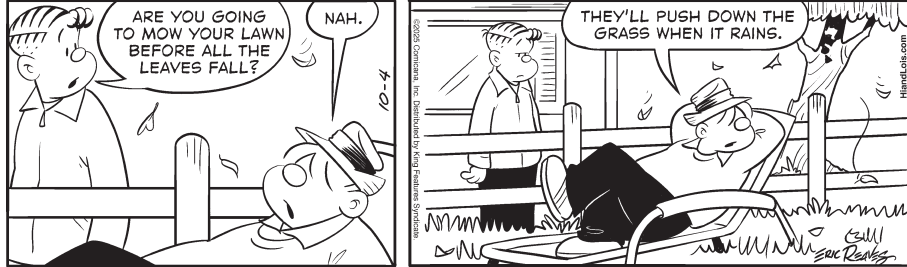
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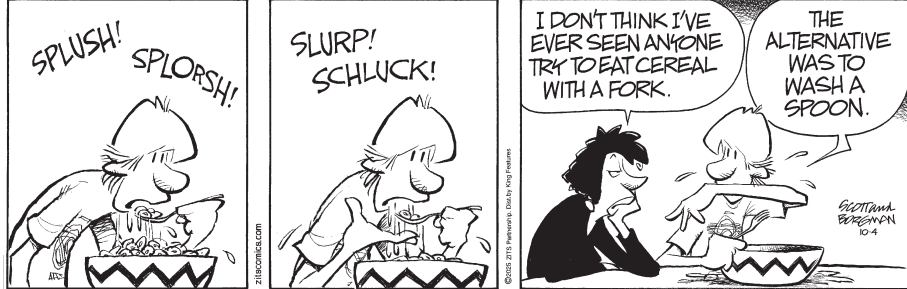
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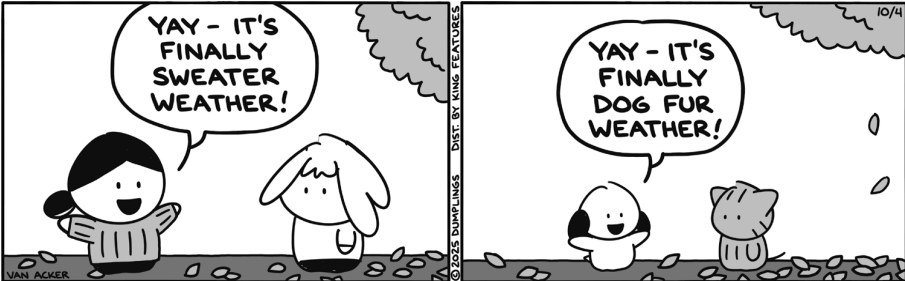
PARDON MY PLANET



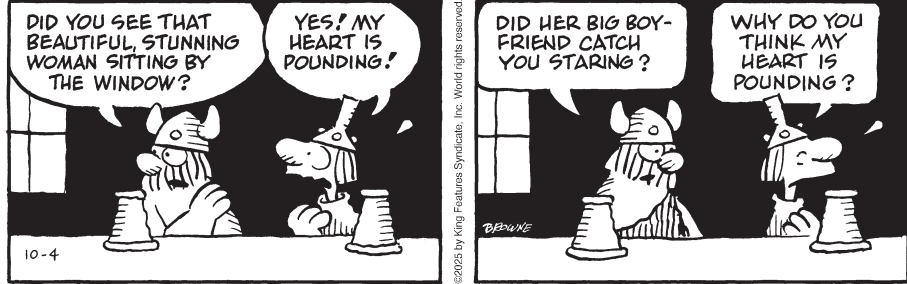
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DUMPLINGS



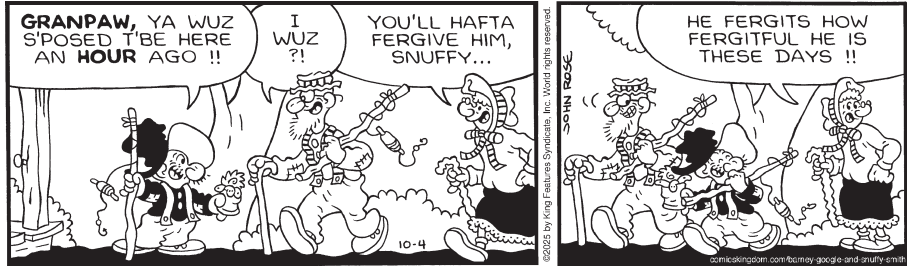
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



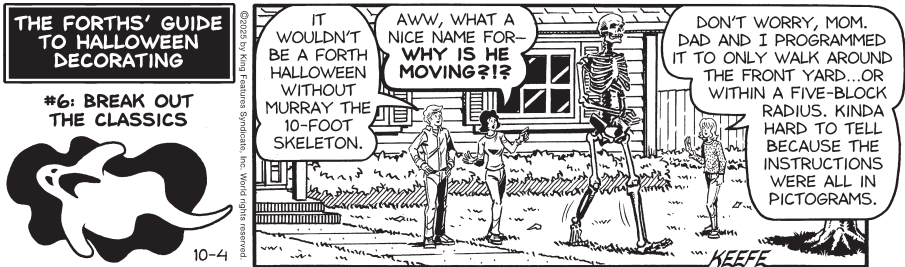
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BARNEY GOOGLE AND SNUFFY SMITH



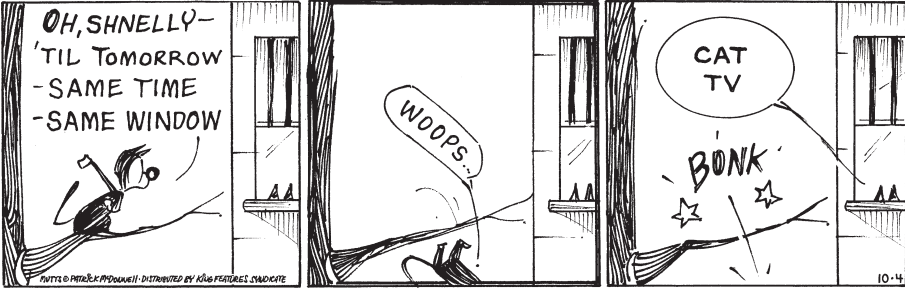
SALLY FORTH



DUSTIN



MUTTS



High Court



Indiana Chief Justice Loretta Rush (center) makes remarks during the Indiana Supreme Court’s visit to Hanover College on Tuesday. Pictured at left is Justice Mark Massa and at right, Justice Derek Molter.



Elizabeth Daulton, director of the Indiana Supreme Court Services Division, listens as Hanover College President Lake Lambert welcomes justices of the Indiana Supreme Court to Hanover on Tuesday. Daulton, a 2004 graduate of Madison Consolidated High School, is an attorney with the Supreme Court who helps manage pending cases, provides legal research, analysis, and drafts legal memoranda for the Court.



Ruth Turner, a retired professor of political science at Hanover College for 41 years, poses a question to the Indiana Supreme Court justices during their visit to Jefferson County on Tuesday. Pictured in the row behind Turner are (from left) Scott Circuit Judge Jason Mounty, Jefferson Circuit Judge D.J. Mote, Jefferson Circuit Judge Blaine Goode and former Jefferson Superior Judge Alison Frazier.



More than 700 students gathered in Collier Arena at Hanover College to watch the Indiana Supreme Court hear oral arguments in the case of Ajaylan M. Shabazz vs. State of Indiana.

DISTRICT

FROM PAGE A1

is valued by the community. “The continuity is nice, but I think it’s a nod and compromise to the actual riverfront.”

When the riverfront district was initially proposed, the maximum structure height was set at 45 feet above flood grade. Since then, that maximum has been lowered to 35 feet above flood grade.

Schell noted that 45 feet is specified in the city’s current zoning ordinance as the maximum height restriction in downtown Madison. Steinhardt noted the 35 foot alternative would allow for three stories and a parking garage.

“The riverfront is uniquely different” with the height much like the setbacks, said Dattilo. “The 45 feet pertains to the entire downtown, but down on riverfront, much like the setbacks, you have to give consideration to that as well.”

At one point in the meeting, Thevenow suggested that the ordinance was “drafted to allow” a proposed riverfront housing development which the city has been awarded a \$2 million infrastructure grant in READI funds from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation.

“I would not say that,” said Steinhardt, who has worked closely with the READI program.

Dattilo also took issue with Thevenow’s suggestion, noting that the zoning change is about a district rather than a single project.

“As someone sponsoring this, I would say this ordinance is actually designed to properly zone a very important part of our town,” said Dattilo, adding that based on how much the city’s residents value the riverfront, the ordinance seeks to provides “protection of the riverfront more so than to allow the project. That has been my approach ... I have not been officially

given anything about making this happen. I am concerned that we zone correctly.”

Dattilo noted the proposed zoning uses are a comprehensive plan rather than spot zoning for an individual project.

“It is very valuable to the community to offer good careful planning,” Dattilo said, noting the proposed ordinance actually allows for 27 potential uses in the three block area. “So I see it very differently. I don’t see it as the lot, I see it as let’s plan well. That’s where I am, and that’s why I felt comfortable sponsoring it with Josh Wilber. Let’s make our riverfront make sense.”

Thevenow said he thinks any uses on the riverfront should be conditional rather than permitted and considered on a case-by-case bases by the city’s Board of Zoning Appeals as a way to “give neighbors a chance to be heard ... To me, any development on the riverfront needs to be tightly monitored with high level of input from the public because it’s such a public space down there.”

Courtney said restricting the area’s development by conditional use would limit the area’s potential and the partners who would be willing to invest in the city.

“Out of the 27 or so uses, there are only eight or nine of them that are permitted now,” Courtney said. “The issue with making them all conditional uses, I’m not sure anyone would make an investment under those circumstances that their permit to operate could be revoked ... I don’t know how you could ask an investor to spend potentially millions of dollars but in a few years we may take away your permit to operate anything. That’s why we focus on the schedule uses like we do in all the other districts, like what should be permitted and not permitted.”

Courtney noted the ordinance is “still a work in progress” and will continue to be discussed at Tuesday’s City Council meeting.

NEWS

FROM PAGE A2

probation on prior Driving While Suspended convictions plus \$289 in fees and court costs.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS Jefferson County Sept. 29, 2025

Jon William Kuner to Binzer Development LLC, 213 Wells Drive, Madison.

Mary Ann Jacobs and Elizabeth Geisler to ECSG Land Holdings LLC, approximately 21 acres at 7100+ West State Road 56, Hanover.

Shelton Farms Inc. to ECSG Land Holdings LLC, 65.5 acres at 7301 West State Road 56, Hanover.

Shelton Farms Inc. to ECSG Land Holdings LLC, part of approximately 160 acres at 1551 South Rogers Road, Hanover.

Thomas M. Cheatham to Thomas Mark Cheatham (trustee), Thomas Mark Cheatham (living trust) and Thomas Mark Cheatham Revocable Living Trust, 3 parcels at 1166 East River Buff Lake Drive, Madison.

Donald B. Lynch (trustee), Donald B. Lynch (living trust) and Donald B. Lynch Revocable Living Trust to Bardi Builders LLC, 2013 Galway Trail South, Madison.

George Allen Scott and Tina Marie Scott to John Donald Scott, 213 Sharp Street, Hanover.

Sept. 30, 2025

Jeanine Gray, Joshua Johnson, Vicki Gaver and Oliver Johnson to Plough Handle Rod Farms LLC, approximately 61.5 acres at 3521 West Ten Cent Road, Hanover.

Dale Dewayne Liter, Melvin Montane Liter and Janice R. Liter (estate) to Cindy A. Trimble and Gregory R. Meyer. 8731 West State Road 256, Lexington.

Curtis E. Slack and Terrie Slack to J&R Real Estate LLC and J&R Real

Estate, 843 East Street, Madison.

Quillman Enterprises LLC to Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana Inc. and Indiana Landmarks Inc., 227 East Main Street, Hanover.

Findlay Properties LLC to Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana Inc. and Indiana Landmarks Inc., 111 East Fourth Street, Madison.

Elizabeth E. Bryan to Shelley D. Ulsenheimer, 16.5 acres at 919 West Chicken Run Road, Madison.

Martin Kristopher Sandlin to Seth Bullock, 2113 Wilson Avenue, Madison.

Brittany Vandenberg and Christopher Emigh to Peter W. Snyder Sr. and Mollie E. Snyder, 302 South Zoar Church Road, Madison.

Tammy R. Bentz (estate) and Kendra D. Henry to 2nd Wind LLC, 315 Ross Street, Madison.

Jessika Daugherty, Jessika L. Poston, Joshua Poston, Joshua L. Poston, Jama Poston and Jame L. Poston to Clinton M. Woods, approximately 32.5 acres at 8500 and 8942 East Brushy Fork Road, Madison.

Teresa May Brunner and Michael Maloney (estate) to Michael Marshal Maloney, 3 lots at 1841 Maple Street, Madison.

Greg N. Bentz, Teri J. Bentz and Greg Bentz to Teri J. Bentz, 817 West Third Street, Madison.

Oct. 1, 2025

Madison Schools Lydia Middleton Building Corporation to Madison Consolidated Schools Building Corporation, 714 West Main Street, Madison.

Michael E. Bryan and L. Jean Bryan to L. Jean Bryan, 138 Bunton Lane, Madison.

Waltrust Properties Inc. to Retail Propco Borrower LLC, 10 lots at 129 Clifty Drive, Madison.

Sherry K. Gerth to Mark A Gerth (trust) and Testamentary Trust for Mark A Gerth, 1938 Wells Drive, Madison.

SAVE OUR RIVER FRONT

*Ask the City Council and Mayor
to keep our riverfront zoned Open
Space for everyone's enjoyment.*

MAYOR BOB COURTNEY

812-265-8300 - mayor@madison-in.gov

PATRICK THEVENOW 1ST DISTRICT

812-599-1291 - pthevenow@madison-in.gov

CARLA KREBS 2ND DISTRICT

816-935-3254 - ckrebs@madison-in.gov

LUCY DATTILO 3RD DISTRICT

812-599-0170 - ldattilo@madison-in.gov

JOSH SCHAFER 4TH DISTRICT

812-701-9630 - jschafer@madison-in.gov

JOEL STORM 5TH DISTRICT

812-265-8300 - jstorm@madison-in.gov

JIM BARTLETT AT-LARGE

812-292-2037 - jbartlett@madison-in.gov

JOSH WILBER AT-LARGE

812-265-8300 - jwilber@madison-in.gov

THIS IS A PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Sports

BOYS SOCCER ROUNDUP



David Campbell

Southwestern's Patrick Stewart (30) and Switzerland County's Ezra Dayadharum (5) battle for the ball during their teams' 1-1 draw in Hanover on Tuesday.

Southwestern, Switzerland battle to 1-1 draw

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Class A No. 17 Southwestern and Switzerland County finished in a 1-1 draw in boys soccer Tuesday in Hanover.

The host Rebels opened the scoring in the first half with a goal by freshman Jaxon Higgins. Switzerland County tied the match with a goal by Grant Hall with 20 minutes to play and that's where the contest remained for a 1-1 draw.

On Wednesday, Southwestern came out on the wrong ended of a lopsided match at Greensburg, falling 10-0 to the Pirates. No statistics were available.

Southwestern, now 9-2-4 on the season, traveled to Jac-Cen-Del Thursday. The Rebels face Class A No. 6 Shawe in the Class A Sectional opener at Southwestern (Shelby) on Monday.



David Campbell

Southwestern goalie Tryson Warren reaches for a save during the Rebels' 1-1 draw with Swizerland County at home on Tuesday.

kick by Thomas Poole.

Shawe, now 11-1-2 on the season, hosted Class A No. 14 Providence on Thursday then faces Class A No. 17 Southwestern (Jefferson) in the Class A Sectional tournament at Southwestern (Shelby) on Monday.

MADISON FALLS TO PIONEERS
Madison suffered a 1-0 loss at Class A No. 14 Providence on Tuesday.

Madison, now 7-3-3 on the season, hosted South Ripley on Wednesday and plays South Dearborn in the Class

2A Sectional at Batesville on Monday.

CARROLL BEATS ANDERSON
Carroll County picked up a 2-0 win at Anderson County on Tuesday.

Gamaliel Maldonado scored two goals for the Panthers and Bernardo Gutierrez had an assist. Chris Perez posted five saves.

Carroll, now 12-2 overall, hosted Collins on Thursday and plays in the 31st District Tournament on Monday. Pairings for the tourney have not yet been announced.

Unbeaten Southwestern tennis knocks off Scottsburg at sectional

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Southwestern ground out a 3-2 win over Scottsburg to remain undefeated and advance in the IHSAA Boys Tennis Sectional semifinals Wednesday in Scottsburg.

Braxton Lewis, Quinton Lewis and the doubles team of Brady Cook and Colton Deputy all picked up wins for the Rebels to get them over the top.

On Tuesday, Austin defeated Madison 5-0 in the

other semifinal.

Southwestern had closed out the regular season on Monday with a 5-0 win over Charlestown at home.

Braxton Lewis, Wynn and Quinton Lewis all got wins in singles for the Rebels while doubles teams Cook and Deputy and Max Joseph and Luke Morrow picked up wins.

Southwestern is currently 18-0 on the season and faced Austin in the sectional championship on Thursday.

LOCAL SPORTS CALENDAR

Friday, Oct. 3 Cross Country Madison, Shawe, Southwestern, Terre Haute South Invite, 6 p.m. Football Madison hosts Brownstown, 7 p.m. Switzerland Co. at South Decatur, 7 p.m. Carroll Co. at Henry Co., 7:30 p.m. Trimble Co. hosts Ludlow, 7:30 p.m. Volleyball Hanover hosts John Carroll, 5 p.m. Southwestern girls host Lanesville, 7 p.m.	a.m. Soccer Carroll Co. boys, KHSAA 31st District Tournament, TBA Carroll Co. girls, KHSAA 31st District Tournament, TBA Madison boys vs. South Dearborn, IHSAA Class 2A Sectional at Batesville, 5 p.m. Shawe vs. Southwestern boys, IHSAA Class A Sectional at Southwestern (Shelby), 5 p.m. Switzerland Co. boys vs. Lawrenceburg, IHSAA Class 2A Sectional at Batesville, 7 p.m. Volleyball Madison girls at Bedford North Lawrence, 7 p.m. Trimble Co. girls at Scott Co., 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 4 Cross Country Carroll Co., Trimble Co., Carroll Co. Invite, 9 a.m. Hanover, Louisville Classic, 11:30 a.m. Football Hanover at Rose-Hulman, 2 p.m. Soccer Switzerland Co. girls at Lawrenceburg, 11 a.m. Hanover women host Rose-Hulman, 1 p.m. Hanover men host Rose-Hulman, 3:30 p.m. Volleyball Hanover hosts Manchester, 2 p.m.	Tuesday, Oct. 7 Golf Hanover men, Wabash Invite, 10 a.m. Soccer Madison girls vs. North Harrison, IHSAA Class 2A Sectional at Silver Creek, 7:30 p.m. Volleyball Madison girls at Columbus East, 7 p.m. Switzerland Co. girls host Southwestern, 7 p.m. Trimble Co. girls host Walton-Verona, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 6 Golf Hanover men, Wabash Invite, 10	



John Locher/AP Photo

Indiana Fever guard Shey Peddy (5) fouls Las Vegas Aces center A'ja Wilson (22) during the fourth half of Game 5 of a WNBA basketball playoff semifinals series on Tuesday in Las Vegas.

Aces outlast Fever in OT to clinch Finals berth against Mercury

BY MARK ANDERSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS — The Fever, with about half their roster in street clothes, weren't supposed to be this kind of challenge for the Aces.

And then when Kelsey Mitchell left Game 5 on Tuesday night because of severe leg cramping, victory seemed assured for Las Vegas — only to have Indiana keep fighting back.

But the Aces, pushed to the brink for the second postseason series in a row, survived 107-98 in overtime to advance to the WNBA Finals for the third time in four years. A'ja Wilson, with 35 points, and Jackie Young, with 32, became the first teammates to score more than 30 points in a playoff game.

The second-seeded Aces, who won the league title in 2022 and 2023, will host the fourth-seeded Phoenix Mercury on Friday in the opener of the best-of-seven championship series.

Las Vegas went on a 16-

game winning streak to end the regular season, but was pushed to the edge by Seattle in the first round and then Indiana.

"I think that streak we went on prepared us for moments like this, how to fight through the highs and lows of the game," Wilson said. "It allows us to never take our foot off the gas."

Indiana made Las Vegas work for it even though the sixth-seeded Fever have been decimated by injuries, with Mitchell added to that list that includes Caitlin Clark and Sophie Cunningham. Coach Stephanie White somehow not only kept the team together, the Fever reached the doorstep of their first Finals appearance since 2015.

"They have been an absolute joy to coach," White said. "It's an incredible group of women, an incredibly connected group. They're a great example to everybody to what it means to just put one foot in front of the other to persevere, to welcome

Reds watch hope fade as season ends in Wild Card sweep

BY DOUG PADILLA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Chasing their first playoff victory since 2012, the Cincinnati Reds instead watched the season slip away Wednesday night.

The Reds were eliminated from the National League Wild Card round with an 8-4 loss to the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 2. Cincinnati is 0-5 in the playoffs over the past 13 seasons.

Rookie Sal Stewart raised optimism with a two-run single in the first inning and three RBIs in the game, but his throwing error at first base in the sixth opened the door for four Los Angeles runs.

That the Dodgers' big inning came after the Reds



Mark J. Terrill/AP Photo

Cincinnati Reds manager Terry Francona, left, walks up to mound to replace starting pitcher Zack Littell (52) during the fourth inning in Game 2 of the National League Wild Card baseball playoff series against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Wednesday in Los Angeles.

GIRLS SOCCER ROUNDUP



Southwestern's Aubrey O'Dell (17) gives chase to Switzerland County's Emma South during Tuesday's Ohio River Valley Conference girls soccer game in Hanover. South, a junior, and Emma Parsons, a senior, scored three goals each for the Pacers as Switzerland (12-2, 4-0 ORVC) fired 22 shots on goal in the 10-0 win.

Lady Cubs close out regular season with 6-2 win over Seymour

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Madison girls soccer, ranked 14th in Class 2A, closed out the regular season with a 6-2 win at former Hoosier Hills Conference opponent Seymour on Monday.

Freshman Tessa Renfrow scored two goals for the Cubs while Kenzie Smith, Taylor Chatham and Maggie Stivers scored a goal each. Annalise Roney had an assist.

Madison, now 14-2-1 on the season, opens defense of its Class 2A Sectional championship with a contest against North Harrison on Tuesday.

PACERS HAMMER REBELS

Class A No. 5 Switzerland County hammered an undermanned Southwestern squad 10-0 on Tuesday in Hanover in a game that was called at halftime due to darkness.

Southwestern suited up only 10 players and was unable to stop the powerful Pacers.

Girls school record holder



Switzerland County's Adalyn Archer (5) and Emma Parsons (10) celebrate after a goal in the Pacers' 10-0 win at Southwestern on Tuesday. With the win, Switzerland County, now 12-2 and 4-0 ORVC, set up a showdown with Shawe for the conference championship on Thursday.

Emma Parsons scored three goals for Switzerland to increase her career goals total to 105 and tie the school record regardless of gender.

Emma South also had three goals and Kaylynn Schaefer, Ashlyn Jesop, Taylor Kappes and Adalyn Archer scored a goal each. Parsons and Kappes each had two assists.

On Monday, Southwestern suffered a 9-0 loss at Christian

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COURIERAREA SPORTS SHORTS



Southwestern's girls cross country team won the Ohio River Valley Conference Middle School championship on Tuesday. Members of the team are (from left): Paisley Miller, Payton Shepherd, Lillian Bickers, Annistyn Cloud, Harper Green, Callie Farmer, Izzy Boldery, Alyssa Ream, Madi Lucas and Bristol Bowman.

BY THE COURIER STAFF

— Several local athletes were honored by the Ohio River Valley Conference recently as players of the week.

Southwestern's Rorie Scroggins and Jenna Owens shared the award in volleyball. Scroggins had 45 kills and Owens had 24 kills and 36 digs in five matches.

Switzerland County's Claire Boggs won the award in girls cross country after running first at South Ripley.

Shawe's Cavaan Hambrick won the award in boys cross country with a win at South Ripley.

Southwestern's Connor Johnson won the award in boys soccer after six goals

in three matches.

Switzerland County's Emma Parsons got the award in girls soccer after scored her school record 100th career goal.

— Carroll County junior quarterback Treavin Shovlin has been named North Central Kentucky Conference Football Player of the Week.

Shovlin completed 11 of 20 passes for 207 yards and three touchdowns in the the Panthers' 26-21 loss to Nicholas County last Friday.

For the season, Shovlin has completed 52-of-103 passes for 808 yards and 11 touchdowns against six interceptions.

— Southwestern's girls picked up

the win and Southwestern's Harper Green and Shawe's Sam Gish each claimed individual titles at the Ohio River Valley Conference Middle School Cross Country championships.

Southwestern scored 36 points to win the girls race, Shawe was second with 60 and Switzerland County placed fifth with 91 points.

Scorers for Southwestern were: Green, first, 12:25.70; Callie Farmer, fourth, 13:07.49; Annistyn Cloud, sixth, 13:28.87; Payton Shepherd, seventh, 13:48.74; and Alyssa Ream, 19th, 16:33.93.

Scorers for Shawe were: Holland Kring, second, 13:05.27; Ari Alderman, fifth,

SEE COURIERAREA/PAGE B6

VOLLEYBALL ROUNDUP

Madison picks up wins over Lawrenceburg, Jennings

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Madison volleyball scored a pair of wins earlier this week, knocking off Lawrenceburg on Monday and Jennings County on Tuesday.

Madison swept Lawrenceburg in three sets, 25-20, 25-18, 25-14.

Lilly Canida had eight kills and four blocks, Brittan Neuman had seven kills, four aces, eight digs and three blocks, Maylie Skinner had six kills, Hannah Combs had six kills and four aces, Ava Canida had 10 digs and four aces, and Audrey Miller had 27 assists.

Madison's win over former conference foe Jennings County took considerably more effort as the Cubs outlasted the Panthers in five sets, 25-20, 25-17, 14-25, 21-25, 15-10. No individual stats were available.

Madison, now 21-7 on the season, hosted Floyd Central on Thursday, heads to Bedford North Lawrence on Monday and visits Columbus East on Tuesday.

REBELS KNOCK OFF MUSTANGS

Southwestern picked up a three-set win at New Washington on Tuesday.

The Rebels won by scores of 25-21, 25-19, 25-8.

Rorie Scroggins had 16 kills and two blocks for the Rebels, Hadlie Buchanan had 11 kills and six digs, Josie Hubbard had six kills, Jenna Owens had five kills and eight

aces on 29-for-29 serving and Kaylee Hite had two kills, one ace and 10 digs.

Southwestern, now 13-10 on the season, hosted South Ripley on Thursday and heads to Switzerland County next Tuesday.

SHAWE FALLS TO RISING SUN

Shawe lost 3-0 (25-7, 25-12, 25-12) at home to Rising Sun on Monday.

The Shiners' Liv Graver and Ryan Works, both seniors, rained nine kills each while Avery Elliott had 7 kills. Reese Merica had 22 assists.

No stats for Shawe were available.

Shawe also lost the Trimble County 3-0 on Wednesday as the Raiders crossed the Ohio River and took home a 25-17, 25-21, 25-14 win.

No stats for either team were available.

Shawe, now 2-12 overall and 0-4 Ohio River Valley Conference, travels to South Ripley next Wednesday. Trimble County, now 11-14, visits Shelby County Thursday, Scott County Monday and hosts Walton-Verona Tuesday.

PACERS BEAT MEDORA

Switzerland County picked up a 25-10, 25-9, 25-12 win at Medora on Tuesday.

No stats for the Pacers were available.

Switzerland, now 4-16 overall, traveled to New Washington Wednesday before hosting ORVC rival Southwestern Tuesday.

Shawe runners compete at New Washington

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Shawe's cross country teams competed in the Woodward Invitational at New Washington on Tuesday.

Borden won the boys race with 31 points, New Washington was second with 36 and Shawe was third with 63. Borden then beat Scottsburg 26-29 in the girls race.

Cohenn Hambrick led the Shawe boys with a 14th place finish in 21:34. Victor Pacheco was 18th with 21:52, Nathan

Fewell was 27th with 23:07, Keegan McMahan was 28th in 23:51, Luke Gardner was 33rd in 29:10 and Ethan Pichardo ran 34th in 35:17.

In the girls race, Margaret Stanley was 18th in 30:50 for Shawe and Esperanza Garcia ran 25th in 34:21.

Henryville's Josiah Spicer won the boys race in 18:08 and Borden's Emery Aemmer won the girls race in 22:03.

Shawe competes in the Terre Haute Invitational on Friday.

LOCAL LEAGUES

MONDAY, SEPT. 29
Madison Church Volleyball Hallelujah Division
Falls City No. 3 d. New Heart No. 1, 18-25, 25-15, 15-7.
Riverstone No. 2 d. First Baptist, 25-22, 25-23.
Wirt Baptist No. 2 d. 24/7 Life No. 2, 25-10, 25-17.
Falls City No. 2 d. Mt Pleasant Baptist, 25-9, 25-14.
Falls City No. 1 d. New Heart No. 1, 25-13, 25-18.
Riverstone No. 2 d. New Heart No. 2, 25-7, 25-17.
Praise Division
Dupont Baptist d. Riverstone No. 1, 25-13, 25-15.
24/7 Life No. 1 d. Hanover United Methodist, 16-25, 26-24, 15-8.
Dupont Baptist d. Hanover United Methodist, 18-25, 26-22, 15-13.
Wirt Baptist No. 1 d. 24/7 Life No. 1, 25-18, 25-13.

HANOVER PARKS DEPARTMENT Youth Volleyball Thursday, Sept. 25
Orange Crush d. Aces, 25-23, 25-15.
Bumble Bee Ballers d. Aces, 25-23, 25-20.
Cam Defenders No. 2 d. Sassy Setters, 25-17, 25-17.
Purple Passers d. Cam Defenders No. 1, 15-25, 25-21, 15-8.
Pink Powerhouse d. Mission: Unblockable, 25-15, 25-20.
Tuesday, Sept. 30
Sassy Setters d. Bumble Bee Ballers, 13-25, 25-18, 15-7.
Orange Crush d. Sassy Setters, 25-10, 25-10.
Pink Powerhouse d. Defenders No. 2, 25-20, 25-23.
Mission Unblock Able d. Defenders No. 1, 25-23, 25-20.
Purple Passer d. Aces, 25-14, 25-15.

ACES

FROM PAGE B1

people into the fold, to not give in to circumstance."

Mitchell had scored a team-high 15 points at the time of her injury. Six Fever players reached double digits, including Odyssey Sims with 27 points and Natasha Howard with 16. Aliyah Boston finished with 11 points and 16 rebounds, but fouled out with 27 seconds left in regulation.

The Aces were closer to a three-woman show, with Wilson coming within three points of her playoff career high. Young, whose putback basket in the opening round against Seattle allowed Las Vegas to advance to this

round, had a playoff career-high 10 assists.

Chelsea Gray — who briefly went into the locker room in early in the third quarter with an apparent right leg injury — scored 17 points, including eight in overtime.

Las Vegas needed every one of those points because the Fever challenged the Aces throughout, including after Mitchell got hurt. Rather than fade away and concede the playoff series to the home team, the Fever battled to tie the game at 84 on two Sims free throws with 52 seconds left.

After Young made two free throws with 27.1 seconds remaining, Sims answered with a drive down the lane for a layup with 22.5 seconds to go to again tie the game.

Mitchell takes blame for fumble, penalty in Colts' loss

BY MICHAEL MAROT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Indianapolis Colts receiver Adonai Mitchell opened Monday's team meeting by accepting responsibility for Sunday's costly gaffe.

Now comes the harder part — proving himself all over again.

One day after Mitchell started to celebrate his first career TD before crossing the goal line and fumbled the ball out of the end zone, erasing the score, in Sunday's 27-20 loss to the Los Angeles Rams, Colts coach Shane Steichen was still being peppered by questions about Mitchell's miscue and a litany of others including having only 10 defenders on the field when Tutu Atwell caught the tiebreaking 88 yard TD pass with 1:33 to play.

That one, Steichen said, was his fault.

“It shouldn’t happen, it’s unacceptable, and it starts with me as the head coach,” said Steichen, now in his third season with Indy. “I’ve got to recognize that we’ve only got 10 and call a timeout there. It can’t happen.”

Steichen wasn't looking to assess blame.

He just wants his team focused on fixing the mistakes.

Though Steichen said he did not consider benching Mitchell after the early miscue because the Colts needed his playmaking ability, Steichen acknowledged he did meet with the second-year receiver Monday.

Mitchell also nullified another touchdown Sunday when he was called for holding on a 53-yard tackle-breaking scoring run from Jonathan Taylor with about two minutes to go.

“He (Mitchell) spoke to the team



Indianapolis Colts wide receiver Adonai Mitchell (10) fumbles the ball before crossing the goal line against the Los Angeles Rams during the second half of an NFL football game on Sunday in Inglewood, Calif.

Eric Thayer/AP Photo

at the start of the meeting,” Steichen said. “I had a conversation with him today in my office, letting him know this moment obviously doesn’t define who you are as a person. But he knows going forward, he’s going to have to earn it with how he practices and how he prepares.”

Steichen wasn't the only one offering public support to Mitchell, who was criticized last season for his propensity for dropping passes. Mitchell did not speak with reporters Monday, but two of his teammates did and both were quick to suggest it happens.

Besides, Mitchell wasn't the only one messing up.

Daniel Jones threw his first two interceptions with Indy, the second essentially ending the game. And cornerback Mekhi Blackmon fell down near the line of scrimmage as he tried to defend Atwell on the game-changing play, leaving the Colts essentially down two players.

“Mistakes happen, like we’re all human,” left tackle Bernhard Raimann said. “We all try our hardest, and it was great to hear (from Mitchell). We all take accountability for the mistakes we’ve made. It takes guts to stand up in front of the team and acknowledge that, but we all know who (Mitchell) is — he’s a guy that shows up early, who gets

his extra work in and is a freak athlete.”

WHAT’S WORKING

TE Tyler Warren. The rookie continued his strong start by scoring his first career TD on a 2-yard run and catching five more passes for 70 yards. Warren joined former Houston Oiler Alvin Reed as the only tight ends in league history to post 70 or more yards receiving in three of their first four career games.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

Penalties, In addition to all of Indy's other problems, the Colts committed

11 penalties for 88 yards.

STOCK UP

S Nick Cross. After finishing among last season's NFL leaders in tackles, he's off to another strong start. He entered the game with 20 tackles and added 14 more at Los Angeles. Cross continues to prove he can be a tackling machine.

STOCK DOWN

CB Xavien Howard. The NFL's two-time interceptions leader was a late addition to the roster because of injuries. Indy thought the reunion of Howard and new defensive coordinator Lou Anarumo could work. Instead, Howard has not played well through the first four weeks, creating questions about how long Howard's stay in Indy will be.

INJURIES

Indy played without three starters Sunday — right guard Matt Goncalves (toe), receiver Alec Pierce (concussion protocol) and CB Kenny Moore II (Achilles tendon). It's unclear whether any of them will be ready this weekend. Indy also lost backup RB Tyler Goodson with a groin injury against the Rams. He did not return.

KEY NUMBER

3 — Indy had three turnovers, ending its three-game streak with none.

NEXT STEPS

Indy needs to play much cleaner football if it intends to rebound against the Las Vegas Raiders (1-3) next Sunday. Expect Steichen to re-emphasize four points this week: No turnovers, avoid penalties, make sure 11 players are on the field at all times and hold onto the ball until its clearly across the goal line.

Coach Taylor, Bengals remain committed to Browning at quarterback

BY JAY MORRISON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — While two struggling offenses already have made changes at quarterback, the Cincinnati Bengals are staying committed to Jake Browning.

For now.

Bengals coach Zac Taylor said he doesn't feel the need to add competition at the position while throwing his support behind Browning despite back-to-back poor starts since replacing the injured Joe Burrow.

“I’ve got a ton of confidence in Jake,” Taylor said. “I’m unwavering in that. I’ve seen the best of Jake. I know that we can do a great job supporting him to where he can go win games for us. So, I feel extremely confident in Jake Browning.”

Browning rallied the Bengals to a 31-27 victory against the Jacksonville Jaguars on Sept. 14 after Burrow suffered a second-quarter turf toe injury that required surgery and will keep him sidelined until at least mid-December.

But in his season starting debut at Minnesota, Browning threw for just 140 yards and two interceptions, one of which Isaiah Rodgers returned for a touchdown in a 48-10 loss in Week 3.

On Monday night, Browning didn’t turn the ball over, but he completed just 56 percent of his passes for 125 yards in a 28-3 loss to the Denver Broncos.



Jack Dempsey/AP Photo

Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Jake Browning (6) looks to throw against the Denver Broncos during the first half of an NFL football game on Monday in Denver.

“It’s not an evaluation of Jake Browning. It’s evaluation of all of us on offense,” Taylor said. “We all have to do our part to put ourselves in the best position possible to go score points, and that’s me giving Jake everything he needs, giving the linemen everything they need.

“Really, first and foremost as the head coach, it’s not a reflection on one player. It’s on me,” Taylor added. “And so I’ve got to get ourselves in a better position to be able to go.”

One of the big reasons the Bengals exude so much belief in Browning is what he did in 2023 after Burrow suffered the season-ending wrist injury, going 4-3 as the starter despite having never played a meaningful snap since entering the league in 2019.

But in two-plus games this

season, Browning is 54 of 84 for 506 yards with three touchdowns and five interceptions.

Since slotting into the starting role in Week 3, Browning ranks 33rd out of 35 qualifying quarterbacks in ESPN’s QBR metric.

Nos. 34 and 35 on that list, Cleveland’s Joe Flacco and the New York Giants Russell Wilson, have lost their starting jobs to rookies Dillon Gabriel and Jaxson Dart, respectively.

The Bengals don’t have a rookie draft pick waiting in the wings. Browning’s backup is Brett Rypien, whom the Bengals promoted from the practice squad after Burrow’s injury. And the other quarterbacks on the roster are Mike White and Sean Clifford, whom they signed off the street two weeks ago.

But with just 13 points and 330 yards combined in the past two games, the Bengals cannot continue to start Browning if those numbers don’t improve.

Whether the replacement would be one of the three quarterbacks in the building or come by signing one off another team’s practice squad or via a trade is something director of player personnel Duke Tobin and the Cincinnati front office will have to consider.

“With every position, we’re always assessing,” Taylor said. “That’s Duke’s job. That’s the personnel department. They do a great job of that, presenting us options when Joe went down of other guys we can bring in the room, as well. So we’ll thoroughly exhaust that.”

Despite the ugly losses the past two weeks, the Bengals are 2-2 and one game out of first place in the AFC North and seeded sixth in the AFC.

As bleak as the outlook is since Burrow went down, the season isn’t lost.

“None of us are playing well enough, none of us are coaching well enough,” offensive coordinator Dan Pitcher said. “It seems like the boring answer, but it is true. We’ve got to do everything around Jake to help him, and then we need Jake’s best. We’ve seen Jake and what he can do when he is playing at his best, and we’ve got to get him there.”



Jacob Kupferman/AP Photo

Indianapolis Colts linebacker Shaquille Leonard (53) looks on during an NFL football game against the Carolina Panthers on Nov. 5, 2023, in Charlotte, N.C.

3-time Colts All-Pro Leonard to retire Sunday vs. Raiders

BY MICHAEL MAROT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Former Indianapolis Colts star Shaquille Leonard introduced himself to the team during his first training camp practice by intercepting Andrew Luck.

It didn't take the linebacker long to show the rest of the league he could change games, too.

The three-time All-Pro and 2018 AP NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year will announce his formal retirement during a halftime ceremony Sunday, team officials said Wednesday. Leonard also will bang the team's anvil before the Colts host the Las Vegas Raiders.

For the South Carolina State alum who played 75 games over six seasons in the NFL, all but five with the Colts, it seems like a fitting sendoff.

“He played the game the way it was supposed to be played,” said Colts linebacker Zaire Franklin, who also was part of Indy's rookie class in 2018. “He worked as hard as he possibly could. He gave every single thing he had to this game. I watched him limp around here with one foot and go take the ball away. Obviously, I would have loved if we could have been able to continue to play for a number of years, but he's a person that never cheated the game, never cheated the grind.”

Leonard was a second-round pick, No. 36 overall, and quickly emerged one of the league's top defenders because of his penchant for forcing turnovers and making plays all over the field.

Franklin got his first real glimpse in Week 2 of the 2018 season when Leonard slept in the bathtub of their hotel room because Franklin snored and had the flu. The next day

Leonard had 19 tackles, 15 solos, one sack, one forced fumble and one pass defended.

“I told him ‘You need to sleep in that tub more often,’ Franklin said.

The rewards followed.

Leonard finished the season with 163 tackles and was selected an All-Pro along with Colts first-round pick Quenton Nelson.

They were the first rookie teammates to earn All-Pro honors since Hall of Famers Dick Butkus and Gale Sayers did it with the Chicago Bears in 1965.

Naturally, he became a fan favorite, too, finding motivation in every conceivable corner — from being overlooked by bigger schools when he was recruited out of high school, not being a first-round pick, even not being selected to the Pro Bowl as a rookie.

But around the league, everyone knew his name and his reputation.

“He’s one of those guys that was like, ‘Hey, this is a game-changer,’ and really, obviously, ball security was preached a whole bunch with him,” Colts coach Shane Steichen said. “It was like ‘Hey, we’re going through the line of scrimmage, you’ve got to have that thing high and tight because (Leonard) is coming after it. And he was a sideline-to-sideline guy that could fly around and make a ton of plays.”

He started his career with four straight 100-tackle seasons and it seemed nothing slowed Leonard down — until he suffered a back injury. Despite reluctantly undergoing season-ending surgery in 2022, Leonard was never the same. His productivity dropped in 2023, which led to his release from the Colts, and he finished the season with the Philadelphia Eagles. Leonard never played another game.

Bengals need to find their way on offense without Burrow after being dominated again

BY JOE REEDY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zac Taylor said he didn't envision many changes to the Cincinnati Bengals' offensive game plan when Jake Browning took over for injured star quarterback Joe Burrow.

Based on the first two weeks without Burrow, the seventh-year coach needs to pivot.

The Bengals were dominated for a second straight week as Denver rolled to a 28-3 victory on Monday night. Cincinnati was beaten 48-10 a week earlier at Minnesota;

that's a 76-13 differential over the last two games.

“Offensively, we’re just not creating enough momentum to put points on the board, put pressure on the other team, to get our defense a rest,” Taylor said.

Cincinnati (2-2) has had 23 possessions the last two games with nine ending in three-and-outs. The only sign of progress Monday night was that the Bengals didn't commit a turnover after having five against the Vikings.

Ja'Marr Chase had 14



David Zalubowski/AP Photo

Cincinnati Bengals head coach Zac Taylor heads off the field after an NFL football game against the Denver Broncos on Monday in Denver.

At 58, Cillo is tackling his dream of playing college football

BY WILL GRAVES
AP NATIONAL WRITER

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — The shouts of “Yeah, Tom!” started the moment Tom Cillo crossed the white paint on the sideline and stepped onto the field at Girardi Stadium.

After a couple of bounces to expend some of the nervous energy and a playful cup of his left ear toward the crowd, the oldest freshman nose tackle in the country dropped down into a three-point stance.

Cillo glanced across the line of scrimmage at King’s College freshman center Anthony D’Antonio, four decades younger than the 58-year-old Cillo.

“What’s up, Tom?” D’Antonio said, extending his hand out of respect. Cillo returned the favor.

A few seconds later, the pleasantries ended. D’Antonio snapped the ball and surged toward Cillo. Cillo, at 6-foot-2 and 220 pounds, “small” only by football’s outsized standards, rose to meet him.

The whistle soon sounded to signal the end of the play following a shortish gain. And in that moment, Cillo was no longer burdened by the inescapable mid-life question of “what if?” He was no longer a curiosity, but an official, game-tested NCAA Division III college football player, just like everyone else in uniform on this sun-drenched early fall Sunday.

Even if, in many ways, Cillo is like no one else.

“It doesn’t compare to the birth of your children,” the father of three said after making his debut as a member of Lycoming’s junior varsity in a 16-9 victory on Sept. 28. “But I’m telling you, from a competitor’s standpoint and a guy that’s loved to compete at different things over the years, I think this goes to the top of the chart. This was awesome.”

And, he stressed, just the beginning. Those adrenaline-fueled half-dozen snaps did not mark the end of a journey, but merely a milepost along the way.

“Now that I’ve got some actual game reps, it’s going to keep building,” Cillo said, the smile emerging from his salt-and-pepper beard growing ever wider. “I can’t wait.”

Why would he? He’s waited long enough. Far too long, if he’s being honest.

‘PUT IT OUT OF SIGHT’

So how did Cillo get here? How did a guy who is drawing from his pension and will be eligible for Social Security before he graduates end up leading his Gen Z teammates in an old-school postgame cheer of “Hip Hip Hooray”? How did someone who drives to campus every day in a sedan that might be older than some of his fellow freshmen become an unlikely — if perfect — brand ambassador for a topical pain reliever as part of a NIL deal?

Dave Bellomo is glad you asked.

Bellomo and Cillo — who have known each other for 30 years — were sipping beer in the middle of a catch-up session last spring when the conversation took a turn.

Cillo had recently left his job as part of the Williamsport Recreation Department, where for more than three decades he kept the local streets and parks clean in the north-central Pennsylvania town most widely known as the home of the Little League World Series. He took a maintenance gig at Williamsport Area High School, where he graduated from in 1984, to give himself something to do.

Somewhere deep inside, Cillo could feel the clock ticking.

“I have some regrets,” Cillo told Bellomo.

Not going to college was one of them. Never playing football — Cillo made it through a couple of training camp practices in high school before quitting — was another.

Bellomo, who served as Cillo’s de facto trainer as Cillo navigated everything from power lifting to marathons to triathlons, had one question.

“I’m like, ‘Why don’t you?’” Bellomo said.

Bellomo pointed out that Cillo had been able to make it to his late 50s without any serious injuries. He’d stopped using recreational drugs in his early 20s and said goodbye to heavy drinking in his 30s, replacing those vices with a relentless curiosity and an innate desire to test himself.

Plus, Cillo’s kids — stepson Shawn is 32, Nicole is 28 and Ryan is 21 — are now grown. Ana, his wife of nearly 30 years, had always been wary but supportive whenever her husband wanted to try something new. There was literally nothing holding him back.

Well, other than the fact that no one has ever done something quite like this.

There have been AARP-eligible college football players before. Tom Thompson and Alan Moore were both 61 when they booted extra points. Mike Flynt returned from a long break from the game to play one final season at linebacker for NAIA-level Sul Ross State at 59. Joe Thomas Sr.

moonlighted as a running back for South Carolina State at 55.

All of them, however, had some level of experience. And none of them played in the trenches. Cillo, a lifelong Raiders fan, knew plenty about football but had never buckled a chinstrap in a meaningful way in his life.

If he was going to make a run at this, he would be starting from scratch less than 24 months from the start of his 60s.

Who cares, Bellomo told him. Hearing someone else say out loud what he’d long told himself privately provided the spark Cillo needed.

“It’s time to put regret, not even in the rearview mirror, but time to put it out of sight,” Cillo said. “Rearview mirror means you can still see it. I wanted it out of the picture altogether. It was time. It was now or never.”

Bellomo, who has trained athletes off and on since the 1990s, came up with a plan. Strength wasn’t going to be an issue, not for someone who can pull a firetruck. Conditioning, flexibility and recovery were another matter entirely.

Enter what Bellomo called “Rocky’-type stuff.”

Sprinting up the massive hill that leads up to Williamsport High School. Then doing it again, only this time while carrying a 100-pound rock. Stretching exercises that would bring Cillo to the brink of tears. Cold immersion. Myofascial Therapy. Saunas.

And that was the easy part.

Cillo needed to apply to Lycoming, a small school of just over 1,000 students, and get accepted. Navigating the sea of paperwork wasn’t exactly easy for someone who hadn’t been in the classroom for 40 years. Throw in the fiscal strain of paying for tuition out of pocket — Cillo is using some of that pension to offset the cost — and it’s a lot.

“I’m taking a risk academically, I’m taking a risk physically, definitely a risk financially,” Cillo said. “I smile a lot, but I’m smiling through the stress.”

‘PUMP THE BRAKES, BROTHER’

Lycoming defensive coordinator Steve Wiser, who actually taught Cillo during high school, called Warriors junior defensive lineman Mason Woodward shortly before training camp started, in need of a favor.

Wiser asked Woodward to help out an incoming freshman. When Wiser mentioned, “By the way, Tom is 58,” Woodward thought it was a prank.

Then Cillo incline-pressed 315 pounds nearly a dozen times.

“That’s when I knew it was serious,” Woodward said.

Being strong is one thing. Knowing how to use that strength to play football is something else. For all of the wisdom gleaned from his life experiences, Cillo was a neophyte when it came to Xs and Os.

“It was tough,” Cillo said. “Some days I’d wake up and say, ‘You’ve got to get around.’ And my body would say, ‘Pump the brakes, brother.’”

The brakes might have been pumped, but they were never stopped. Cillo willed his way through two weeks of 12-hour days of practices, meetings, walkthroughs and meals. When the Warriors broke camp, Cillo was one of 117 players remaining on the roster.

“He’s taken some lumps, but he keeps coming back,” coach Mike Clark said. “He keeps learning, keeps working. It’s all part of the process.”

‘HE’S GOT TO EARN IT’

And it is a process. While Cillo understands the uniqueness of his journey, he’s also just another freshman trying to figure out how to balance school and football, albeit with outside responsibilities his teammates may not experience for decades, if at all.

A typical school day begins with a conversation between his mind and his body about who is going to move first. The predawn hours are spent studying — Cillo is majoring



After seeing his first college football game action, Lycoming College nose tackle Tom Cillo (40) and teammates celebrate a 23-16 win over King's College in an NCAA Division III junior varsity college football game on Sunday in Williamsport, Pa.

in criminal justice for now — and chugging coffee. Then it’s off to campus in his black Chuck Taylors for classes. Sometime in between, he’ll try to sneak in a little treatment for whatever might be hurting on a given day.

While the rest of the Warriors head back to their dorms, Cillo instead checks in on his 90-year-old mother Rita, who is dealing with a host of health issues. Sometimes that means staying the night to keep an eye on her, which often means going without sleep.

The cycle repeats itself the next day. And the next.

It’s a lot to handle at any age, let alone one that’s nudging toward Medicare eligibility. No wonder Cillo considers merely getting to the sideline in uniform every weekend a victory.

“Going through all this stuff, the day-to-day grind, I’ve earned the right to be out there,” he said.

On this point, Cillo is adamant.

Yes, his social media feed is starting to gain some traction. Yes, he’s probably the only college athlete in the country to have an endorsement deal with a pain relief ointment company thanks to rules that allow players to make money off their name, image and likeness (NIL).

And, yes, he’ll lean into a portion of his burgeoning celebrity if it inspires others and maybe helps pay a bill or two along the way.

The last thing Cillo wants out of this is sympathy or preferential treatment in the locker room or on the field. Clark, 54 and in his 18th season at Lycoming, never promised Cillo anything other than an opportunity.

“He’s got to earn it,” said Clark, who described Cillo as an older brother. “He’s trying.”

‘EVERYONE JUST LOVES HIM’

Sure, the competitor in Cillo wants to be on the field every play. The man who will turn 59 in January learned long ago

that life doesn’t work like that. If he never plays in a varsity game, which would make him the oldest non-kicker to ever see action in an NCAA contest, so be it.

He is fully committed to seeing this through as long as his body allows. This is not a stunt for attention. It is not a one-off. There are parts of this just as rewarding as playing time, including the chance to impact his teammates in ways that have nothing to do with the game.

Cillo provides countless rides and will occasionally pick up the tab for a post-practice meal. He’ll give advice when asked, but doesn’t want to overstep. Those acts of service are done not in an effort to buy their friendship, but because it’s what he figured teammates do.

It’s one of the many reasons Cillo is no longer “the old guy” to those who practice alongside him.

“Everyone just loves him,” Woodward said. “It’s like, ‘Oh yeah, it’s Tom.’”

Clark, whose only nod to Cillo’s age is letting Cillo call him “Mike” instead of “Coach” when the rest of the team isn’t around, credits Cillo’s presence for helping the Warriors stay focused amid a winless start, intangibles that last year’s group struggled with during a difficult season.

If that’s what eventually becomes Cillo’s legacy at Lycoming, it’s an arrangement he can live with. The rush he felt when assistant coach David Becker told Cillo he was going to start the second half against King’s College only reinforced his desire to keep going. But he’s under no illusion that he’ll be a starter or even a rotational player anytime soon, if ever.

Playing is just part of this experience. So is creating bonds with young men just starting to find their way. Cillo has been where they’re going. He’s well-versed in regret and missed opportunities.

If there’s anything he wants people to take away from this, it’s the message that it’s never too late.

“I know there are people out there just like me, holding themselves back,” he said. “And I want to tell those people, ‘Don’t do it any longer. If you have a dream, if you have a passion, follow through with it.’”

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Oregon No. 2 in AP poll; Rebels, Sooners top 5, Alabama top 10

BY ERIC OLSON
AP COLLEGE FOOTBALL WRITER

Oregon moved up to No. 2 in The Associated Press college football poll on Sunday, Mississippi earned its highest ranking since 2015, Alabama jumped back into the top 10 and Virginia was in the Top 25 for the first time in six years in the wake of a volatile weekend in which four top-10 teams lost.

Ohio State won at Washington and remains No. 1 for the fifth straight week. The Buckeyes received 46 first-place votes, six fewer than a week ago, and their 37-point lead over Oregon is the closest margin between the top two teams since the preseason poll in mid-August.

Oregon’s two-overtime win at Penn State earned the Ducks 16 first-place votes, 15 more than last week, and gave them their highest ranking since



Oregon running back Jordon Davison (0) celebrates a touchdown with tight end Kenyon Sadiq (18) against Penn State during the fourth quarter of their NCAA college football game on Saturday in State College, Pa.

they were No. 1 for two months last year.

Miami, which had an open date, slipped one spot to No. 3 and was followed by Mississippi and idle Oklahoma. The No. 4 Rebels got a nine-

rung promotion for beating LSU and have their highest ranking since they were No. 3 in late September 2015. LSU fell to No. 13, swapping places with Mississippi.

Texas A&M, Penn State,

Indiana, Texas and Alabama round out the top 10.

Alabama, which had been out of the top 10 since losing its opener against Florida State by two touchdowns, has won three straight after beating Georgia for the 10th time in 11 meetings and ending the Bulldogs’ 33-game home win streak. No. 12 Georgia has its lowest ranking since it was No. 12 on Dec. 6, 2020. It’s just the second poll the Bulldogs have been out of the top 10 since 2021.

The losses by Penn State, LSU and Georgia marked the first time since 2016 that three top-five teams lost the same week in the regular season.

Florida State’s loss at Virginia was the latest development in an up-and-down season for the Seminoles. They went from unranked to No. 14 for beating ’Bama, were in the top 10 for three weeks and plunged 10

spots to No. 18 this week.

IN AND OUT

No. 24 Virginia, not listed on any ballots in the previous poll, was rewarded for beating its highest-ranked opponent since then-No. 4 Florida State in 2005. The Cavaliers are 4-1 for a second straight season for the first time since 2003-04.

No. 25 Arizona State’s come-from-behind victory over TCU returned the Sun Devils to the Top 25 after a three-week absence.

Southern California (21) and TCU (24) dropped out.

POLL POINTS

— Week 5 marked the second time this season that four top-10 teams lost. It also happened in Week 1, but three of the four top-10 teams had to lose that week because there

NCAA on verge of approving a single January transfer window for college football

BY MAURA CAREY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The NCAA is on the verge of approving a single transfer window in college football that would allow players on teams competing in the postseason to remain eligible for playoff and bowl games before entering the portal.

The window of Jan. 2-16 was approved by the Division I bowl subdivision oversight committee on Monday and needs only a final signoff from the D-I administrative panel next month to take effect.

Bowl subdivision coaches voted unanimously to support

the January portal proposal during their American Football Coaches Association convention earlier this year. The change would allow them to focus more on coaching during bowl season, and it would prevent most teams from losing active players as they prepare for important games. Last winter, Penn State backup quarterback Beau Pribula entered the portal and missed his team's run in the College Football Playoff.

"The current NCAA post-season model creates a challenge for student-athletes," Pribula, now at

Missouri, wrote on social media at the time. "The overlapping CFB playoff & transfer portal timeline has forced me into an impossible decision."

Players on CFP teams will have a five-day window to enter the portal following their team's final game. All other players will have from Jan. 2 to Jan. 16 to enter, instead of the current Dec. 9-28 window.

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OREGON

FROM **PAGE B4**

were three top-10 matchups.
— Mississippi's nine-spot rise into the top five was the

biggest by any team since the Rebels jumped 12 spots to No. 3 for beating Alabama in 2015.

— Indiana has been the fastest riser over the past month, moving up 15 rungs since Week 1. Over that span, Oklahoma and Texas A&M have each risen 13 spots.

24.
Independent (1) — No. 21.

RANKED VS. RANKED

Miami at Florida State: It will be the 27th time the Hurricanes and Seminoles face off as ranked teams.

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Fever guard Mitchell says severe cramps left her lower body feeling numb in loss to Aces

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Fever All-Star guard Kelsey Mitchell said Wednesday that a medical condition prevented her muscles from functioning properly and left her unable to move her legs during Tuesday night's WNBA semifinal.

Mitchell made the announcement on her social media account.

The scary scene played out late in the third quarter of a 107-98 overtime loss to Las Vegas. The victory sent the Aces to their third WNBA Finals in four years and eliminated the Fever after an improbable playoff run.

All-Star center Aliyah Boston drew her fifth foul while setting a pick as Mitchell drove toward the basket. Mitchell wound up down on the court as players and trainers gathered around, holding up towels to give her privacy.

A stretcher was sent onto the court, but it was not needed. Mitchell managed to



John Locher/AP Photo

Indiana Fever guard Kelsey Mitchell (0) drives against Las Vegas Aces guard Dana Evans (11) during the second half of Game 5 of a WNBA basketball playoff semifinals series on Tuesday in Las Vegas.

get to her feet and was taken to a hospital where she was treated.

"I suffered from something called Rhabdomyolysis last night. my muscles stopped producing and reached it's maximum capacity," she wrote. "I went into a sense of numbness/paralyzing feeling with no movement from my lower extremities for up to 5

to 7 seconds. "I panicked because I began to think the worse when I felt I couldn't move my legs. It was an out of body experience and I thank God for covering me at a time like that." Mitchell said she is recovering and thanked the trainers and doctors who worked on her in the arena and at the hospital.

CUBS

FROM PAGE B2

Academy of Indiana. Julia Pelsor was noted for her defense in the loss.

Southwestern, now 2-7-1 overall, 0-4 Ohio River Valley Conference, hosted South Ripley on Thursday and faces Class A No. 17 Shawe in the Class A Sectional tournament at Trinity Lutheran next Wednesday.

Switzerland, now 12-2 overall and 4-0 ORVC, hosted Shawe on Thursday for the conference championship. The Pacers then will play the winner between Class A No. 1 Oldenburg Academy and Milan in the Class A

Sectional semifinals next Thursday at Milan.

SHAWE WHIPS ROCK CREEK

Class A No. 17 Shawe Memorial defeated Rock Creek Academy 10-0 on Monday.

Taytum Gray scored three goals for the Hilltoppers, Ava Flint and Justice Kuntz had two goals each and Arleen Perez, Kinsley Pollitt and Maria Ameca-Mendoza scored one goal each. Ameca-Mendoza, Pollitt and Natalie Boyd each had two assists and McKenley Copeland had one assist.

Shawe dominated the contest throughout and needed only one save to secure the clean sheet on

defense.

Shawe, now 10-2 overall and 4-0 in the ORVC, traveled to Class A No. 5 Switzerland County in a matchup for the conference championship on Thursday. The Hilltoppers then face Southwestern in the Class A Sectional Tournament at Trinity Lutheran on Wednesday.

PANTHERS FALL TO BOURBON

Carroll County closed out the regular season with a 3-1 loss at home to Bourbon County on Wednesday.

No stats were available. Carroll, now 6-8-1, plays in the 31st District Tournament on Monday. The tourney pairings have not yet been announced.

COURIERAREA

FROM PAGE B2

13:26.70; Riley Carinal, 14th, 15:12.09; Olivia Hill, 17th, 15:58.40; and Addy Ciejkko, 23rd, 17:07.31.

Scorers for Switzerland County were: Sadie Kelso, eighth, 13:56.33; Gabby Day, 12th, 14:24.49; Marlee Selmeyer, 16th, 15:43.59; Reagan Hatton, 27th, 18:08.24; and Lila Partin, 31st, 20:18.49.

Rising Sun won the boys title with 28 points, Shawe was second with 56, Southwestern was third with 65 and Switzerland was fourth with 78.

Scorers for Shawe were: Gish, first, 11:54.15; John Paul Guetig, ninth, 12:57.67; Martin Wilhelm, 14th, 13:17.33; Finn Reed, 18th, 14:53.09; and Dylan Gall, 26th, 15:24.47.

Scorers for Southwestern were: Erik Nopal Valencia, second, 12:01.07; Quinn Green, eighth, 12:53.22; Logan Bowman, 17th, 14:14.04; Liam Taylor, 21st, 15:00.52; and Patrick Mackison, 31st, 15:45.57.

Scorers for Switzerland County were: Larkin Dennis, 10th, 13:01.19; Jordan Thurman, 13th, 13:05.01; Linkon Gault, 20th, 14:59.67; Kamden Riley, 27th, 15:32.95; and Clayton Bear, 28th, 15:39.91.

— Madison Junior High boys and girls cross country swept the Duke Meyer Cross Country Classic at Hanover College on Saturday.

Madison won the boys race with 44 points, Southwestern was fourth with 106, Shawe was fifth with 106 and Switzerland County was seventh with 185.

Scorers for Madison were: Luke Ferguson, first, 11:30.93; Declan Jenkins, eighth, 11:53.33; Alex Miller, ninth, 11:54.91; Heshi Miller, 11th, 12:03.01; and Luke Horvath, 30th, 13:19.65.

Scorers for Southwestern were: Erik Nopal Valencia, fourth, 11:44.71; Quinn Green, 16th, 12:41.43; Logan Bowman, 34th, 13:34.30; Mason James, 36th, 14:08.00; and Liam Taylor, 48th, 14:69.19.

Scorers for Shawe were: Sam Gish, sixth, 11:49.76; John Paul Guetig, 15th, 12:30.06; Martin Wilhelm, 25th, 13:05.53; Dylan Schafer, 44th, 14:48.80; and Finn Reed, 49th, 15:02.69.

Scorers for Switzerland County were: Larkin Dennis, 28th, 13:15.11; Jordan Thurman, 29th, 13:17.96; Clay Bunger, 46th, 14:53.61; Linkon Gault, 59th, 15:21.04; and Corbin Pietrykowski, 76th, 19:27.94.

Madison's girls scored 58 points to beat out Southwestern with 64. Shawe was sixth with 155 and Switzerland did not field a complete team.

Scorers for Madison were: Noli Heitz, fourth, 12:43.68; Adelynn Glunt, seventh, 13:12.64; Sally Geyman, eighth, 13:17.98; Emme Goodknight, 20th, 14:08.82; and Callie Copeland, 22nd, 14:19.98.

Scorers for Southwestern were: Harper Green, first, 11:27.01; Callie Farmer, fifth, 12:52.83; Annistyn Cloud, 11th, 13:36.28; Payton Shepherd, 15th, 13:49.08; and Lillian Bickers, 38th, 15:21.24.

Scorers for Shawe were: Holland Kring, third, 12:36.84; Ari Alderman, sixth, 13:03.37; Olivia Hill, 50th, 16:09.96; Lillian Hay, 69th, 17:37.26; and Noah Warren, 77th, 19:36.40.

Results for Switzerland were: Sadie Kelso, 21st, 14:17.34; Marlee Selmeyer, 60th, 16:51.26; and Lila Partin, 78th, 19:44.08.

— Madison junior varsity girls soccer defeated Seymour 1-0 on Monday.

Poppy Kelsey scored the goal for the Cubs and goalie Molly Geyman recorded the clean sheet.

— Shawe Junior High girls volleyball lost a close three-set match at Milan last Thursday, 25-11, 23-25, 15-12.

Shawe was led in scoring by Ali Bear-Curtis, Adley Ashcraft and Payton Laskowski.

— Southwestern junior varsity volleyball defeated New Washington 2-0 on Tuesday.

Olivia Johnson had three kills and eight assists, Josie Hubbard had eight kills, Sophia Carie had three kills, Aspen Abbott had three kills and Delaney Moore had two digs.

— Shawe Junior High boys soccer picked up two wins this week.

On Monday, the Hilltoppers defeated Jac-Cen-Del 3-2. Ayden Dempler had two goals and one assist, Johnny Cooke scored one goal and Patrick Kahn had 10 saves.

On Wednesday, Shawe beat Rising Sun 7-2. Dempler had two goals and two assists, Sam Gish and Cooke each had one goal and one assist, Tanner Sims had two goals, Gabe Krulik scored a goal, Kahn had an assist and a save, Jaylen Beatty had five saves, and Alex Rios Amaro and Liam Miller each had an assist.

Shawe is now 12-1-2 on the season.

— Shawe Junior High girls soccer lost 5-0 to Greensburg on Tuesday.

Jozlyn Wagner was in goal in the first half and had six saves on 10 shots while Harper Denning was in goal the second half and had 10 saves on 11 shots. Ruby Bear, Harper Goddard and Ali Bear-Curtis played well on defense and Olivia Hollihan played well all-around.

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Yamamoto shines as Dodgers sweep Reds to reach NL Division Series

BY BETH HARRIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Yoshinobu Yamamoto struck out a postseason-high nine while pitching into the seventh inning and the Los Angeles Dodgers broke it open with a four-run sixth to beat the Cincinnati Reds 8-4 on Wednesday night and advance to the National League Division Series.

The defending World Series champion Dodgers advanced to their 20th NLDS appearance — 13th in a row — in franchise history and will face the Phillies starting Saturday in Philadelphia. The teams last met in the postseason in 2009, when the Phillies beat the Dodgers in the NL Championship Series for the second straight year.

“I know we can win the whole thing,” Betts said. “We’ve got to continue to pitch, timely hitting and play defense, and everything should be OK.”

After hitting a franchise playoff-tying five home runs in a 10-5 win in the NL Wild Card Series opener Tuesday, the Dodgers eliminated the Reds by playing small ball and rapping out 13 hits —



Mark J. Terrill/A Photo

Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto reacts after striking out Cincinnati Reds' Elly De La Cruz during the sixth inning in Game 2 of the National League Wild Card baseball playoff series on Oct. 1 in Los Angeles.

two fewer than in Game 1. Mookie Betts went 4 for 5 with three doubles, tying Jim Gilliam in Game 4 of the 1953 World Series for most doubles in a single post-season game in team history.

“I think what we’re seeing is winning pitches, using the whole field, fighting and not trying to just slug,” manager Dave Roberts said. “I think we’re taking team at-bats.” After the Reds took a 2-0 lead in the first, Yamamoto

retired the next 13 batters.

The Dodgers rallied to take a 3-2 lead before the Japanese right-hander wiggled his way out of a huge jam in the sixth. The Reds loaded the bases with no outs on consecutive singles by TJ Friedl, Spencer Steer and former Dodger Gavin Lux.

Austin Hays grounded into a fielder's choice to shortstop and Betts fired home, where catcher Ben Rortved stomped on the plate to get

Friedl. Yamamoto then retired Sal Stewart and Elly De La Cruz on back-to-back swinging strikeouts to end the threat.

“I was just trying to bring my everything out there,” Yamamoto said through a translator.

With blue rally towels waving, Yamamoto walked off to a standing ovation from the crowd of 50,465.

“Once he got the two outs, I think he kind of smelled blood right there and was able to attack and get the last out,” Betts said.

Yamamoto got the first two outs of the seventh before leaving to a second ovation. The right-hander allowed two runs, four hits and walked two on a career-high 113 pitches. It was the most pitches by a Dodger in the playoffs since Walker Buehler threw 117 in Game 5 of the 2019 NLDS.

For the second straight night, the fans' mood soured in the eighth. Reliever Emmet Sheehan gave up two runs, making it 8-4, before the Reds brought the tying run to the plate against Alex Vesia. He got Friedl on a called third strike to end the inning in which Sheehan and Vesia made a combined 41 pitches.

BENGALS

FROM PAGE B3

catches in the Bengals' Week 2 win over Jacksonville, but has been held to 12 receptions in the other three games combined.

Chase, who had five catches for 23 yards, was frustrated on the sideline during the second half and was talking with Taylor.

Tee Higgins has only 10 receptions in four games.

“It’s hard knowing the type of offense we have, knowing the type of weapons we have in the backfield, outside, and at tight end,” Chase said. “We know we’re capable, we know we’re capable, we know the ins-and-outs of the offense. We know we’re a downfield-threat team and everybody else knows it but right now, we’re facing a little adversity, and we got to figure it out.”

Denver blitzed Browning on just four of 29 dropbacks, but generated three sacks and nine pressures when rushing four or fewer.

Chase Brown had 40 yards rushing, but the Bengals are often behind the chains because they have to rely on the passing game. On third down, they had an average of 8 yards to go and converted just 2 of 11.

“I think any time you are struggling or not doing well on offense, there’s a lot that goes into it. I think for me, my focus is on my role in that which is dropping back, making sure I’m making good decisions and to continue to move the ball forward,” said Browning, who completed 14 of 25 passes for 125 yards. “Finding a way to be more explosive, put up more points, sustain more drives, to be better on third down. Just play better offense in general.”

With Detroit, Green Bay and Pittsburgh as their next three opponents, the Bengals need a quick fix.

WHAT'S WORKING

Red-zone defense.

Demetrius Knight Jr.'s interception in the third quarter was the second time this season the Bengals got a pick in the end zone, and the fourth time this season Cincinnati hasn't allowed an opponent to score after getting inside the red zone.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

Avoiding penalties. The Bengals were flagged 11 times for 65 yards, including six for 35 yards in the second quarter when they fell behind 21-3. That was the 11th time since 2000 they have had at least six penalties in a quarter.

STOCK UP

Knight tied for the team lead with 10 tackles and came up with his first NFL interception, picking off a pass in the end zone during the third quarter. The rookie linebacker, who was taken in the second round of the draft, is second on the team with 31 tackles.

STOCK DOWN

CB Cam Taylor-Britt, who allowed a pair of third-down receptions by Courtland Sutton in the second quarter on a Broncos TD drive. Those catches resulted in 41 yards.

INJURIES

WR Charlie Jones sprained his right ankle in the second half. DE Shemar Stewart was inactive for the second straight game with an ankle injury.

KEY NUMBER

238 — Yards after the catch allowed by the Bengals against the Broncos, the second-most allowed by any team in a game this season. Dallas gave up 260 against Green Bay on Sunday.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Bengals host the Detroit Lions, who have won three straight after dropping their opener, on Sunday. Cincinnati has won 10 of the 13 in the series, including seven straight.

REDS

FROM PAGE B1

failed to score in their half of the sixth, despite loading the bases with no outs, only heightened the sting.

“It’s tough,” Stewart said. “I didn’t make some plays out there that cost the team and it’s a tough pill to swallow. I guess I’ll regroup in a few days, a few weeks, and get back to work.”

There remains plenty to savor for Cincinnati like eight victories over the final 11 games of the regular season to secure the final playoff spot in the NL. And there is a roster with plenty of young talent that suggests the best is yet to come.

For now, though, the Reds are left to sift through the rubble of their Game 2 defeat.

“There were a lot of highs and lows this year and a lot to hang our hats on,” outfielder TJ Friedl said. “Getting a taste of that (playoff-clinching) champagne, that’s something we as a group want to remember that feeling.”

The Reds got to Dodgers ace Yoshinobu Yamamoto early when Spencer Steer was hit by a pitch as the second batter of the game and Austin Hays reached base when Los Angeles right fielder Teoscar Hernandez dropped his fly ball along the right-field line.

Stewart, who made his major league debut Sept. 1 and was starting in his first playoff game, singled past Freddie Freeman at first base to give Cincinnati

a 2-0 lead.

The Dodgers chipped away to take a 3-2 lead in the fourth, with the Reds poised to regain the advantage in the sixth against Yamamoto after Friedl, Spencer Steer and Gavin Lux all opened the inning with singles to load the bases.

But the Reds failed to score when Hays grounded into a force out at home, while Stewart and Elly De La Cruz struck out. Stewart’s costly throwing error followed a half inning later.

“Learning what postseason baseball feels like, understanding what it takes to get to the postseason and what it takes to win in the postseason, I think that is all valuable experience we can use going forward,” Steer said. “Hopefully, that’s the standard for this organization going forward is the postseason.”

Social Security Was Never Meant to Be Enough



Layin' it on the line

By Stephen Dybwad
Retirement Planning/
Wealth Management

Social Security Was Never Meant to Be Enough. That statement alone carries a truth many Americans overlook until it's too late. While Social Security plays a crucial role in retirement income planning, relying on it as your sole or even primary source of retirement income can lead to serious financial shortfalls. The reality is, Social Security was originally designed to be a supplement-a foundation to help support retirees, not a full replacement for lost wages.

When the Social Security Act was passed in 1935, it came during the height of the Great Depression. At that time, life expectancy

was much lower, and the average retiree only lived a few years after collecting benefits. The program was intended to prevent extreme poverty among older Americans, not to fully fund decades of retirement. Fast forward to today, and people are living 20 to 30 years beyond their retirement date. That changes everything.

The average Social Security benefit in 2024 is about \$1,900 per month. While that may cover basic needs for some, it falls far short of what most retirees need to maintain their lifestyle, pay for health care, travel, or deal with unexpected expenses. If Social Security is your only income, there's little room for inflation, emergencies, or personal choice. And unfortunately, the cost of living continues to rise, especially in areas like housing, medical care, and long-term services.

What makes this even more pressing is the future uncertainty surrounding the Social Security system. Without adjustments, current projections suggest that the trust fund reserves could be depleted by the early 2030s. That doesn't mean benefits will disappear, but they may be reduced unless

legislative action is taken. In other words, building your retirement plan around promises that may change is risky at best.

That's why it's essential to create additional income sources beyond Social Security. Whether it's a pension, savings, IRAs, annuities, or a diversified investment portfolio, you need a strategy that fills the gap between what Social Security provides and what you actually need. Safe, guaranteed options like fixed indexed annuities can be a powerful complement to Social Security, giving you income you can't outlive and protection from market volatility.

Stephen Dybwad, a long-time Hoosier resident, is a member of Syndicated Columnists, a national organization committed to a fully transparent approach to money management. Syndicated Columnists is the sole provider of this material, both written and conceptual, for this column. All rights reserved.

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